

## Soviets say summit still on course

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union said Saturday next month's summit between President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush would go ahead as planned. "On this question, there are no changes," Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin told a news conference. He said the summit would go ahead as planned from Feb. 11 to 13. Mr. Churkin had been asked about a meeting on Friday between Foreign Minister Alexander Borisov and the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, The White House this week suggested the Moscow summit, the fifth formal meeting between Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Bush, might be called off because of last weekend's Soviet army crackdown in Lithuania. Churkin said Soviet and U.S. representatives would meet in Washington on Monday at the level of deputy foreign minister to put finishing touches to a treaty that will cut long-range nuclear weapons. The signing of a strategic arms reductions (START) treaty is the centrepiece of the summit.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي

## Morocco suggests truce force

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco urged Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Saturday to accept a North African military force in Kuwait after a Gulf war ceasefire. Morocco has sent troops to the U.S.-led multinational force ranged against Iraq over Kuwait. The King appealed to President Saddam, in a message published by the official news agency MAP, to agree to the five North African states asking the U.N. Security Council to seek a halt to hostilities. He said they would "urge the Security Council to launch an appeal for a halt to hostilities, the disengagement of force, and send to Kuwait contingents from Arab Maghreb armies to replace the gallant Iraqi army." "I implore God that this initiative will obtain the agreement of our dear brother (President Saddam)... any other proposal my dear brother considers might stopp Arab bloodshed will get all my attention," the king added. He said the Arab World was in "difficult and historic circumstances following the launching of hostilities on Iraqi territory. On this occasion the gallant Iraqi army has given proof of courage and resistance that arouse respect and consideration."

Volume 16 Number 4603

AMMAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 1991, RAJAB 4, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

# Allies pound Iraq; missiles hit Tel Aviv

## Iraq says Israeli jets taking part in bombings

Combined agency dispatches

ALLIED BOMBERS continued to pour explosives into Iraq Saturday in a bid to secure air supremacy in the three-day-old Gulf war, but failed to silence Iraqi launchers which lobbed several Scud missiles into Israel for the second day running.

Iraq said its missile attacks on Israel would hasten the liberation of Palestine and that the Israelis already had tried to retaliate.

The second wave of Iraqi missiles hit Israel as officials in Baghdad appealed to Muslims worldwide to attack Western interests.

Iraqi radio broadcast a military communique saying the latest missile strike turned Tel Aviv into a "crematorium." Israel said there were only slight injuries, but most stories filed from the Jewish state underwent "significant deletions," news agencies reported.

Baghdad Radio, quoted a

military spokesman as saying there was "irrefutable proof" that Israeli warplanes had joined in attacks on Iraq.

It dismissed as "subterfuge," Western appeals for Israel not to retaliate for Iraq's missile raids.

Baghdad Radio, quoting a statement by a military spokesman, said: "It has been proved to us with concrete material evidence that Zionist enemy aircraft participated in the aggressive operations."

"We will present some of this

evidence to the public at the appropriate time," the radio quoted the spokesman as saying.

The broadcast added: "It appears that the statements made by certain officials in some Western countries and their appeals to Israel not to participate in the aggression are aimed at deceiving public opinion."

Israel denied the claim.

The Iraqi spokesman also said that Israel launched an unsuccessful missile attack Friday night on Iraq's air base at Al Habbaniyah, near Baghdad.

Baghdad radio announced the latest attack on Israel as it took place, interrupting a broadcast to say, "This moment we are launching 11 missiles at the enemy."

"Tomorrow is near. Palestine will be liberated," the radio said, quoting a military communique.

The radio said in a separate commentary that all those opposing Iraq faced "destructive surprises" that will come to them one after another whether they expect them or not.

According to the radio, "scores of their (the allies) planes are piling up daily." It said 101 allies planes had been downed since the war began, contrasting with eight reported by the allies.

Iraqi media said military authorities have offered rewards to people who capture downed allied pilots. The rewards were 20,000 dinars for non-Iraqis who capture pilots and 10,000 dinars for Iraqis (\$32,000 at the official rate).

Citizens were asked to cooperate with the media in helping to obtain photographs of downed



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday addresses a press conference in Amman (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## King appeals for halt to hostilities in Gulf

By Abdullah Hasanat  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday called for a halt to hostilities in the Gulf war and a resort to diplomacy to end the crisis. The King indicated that his appeal for peace can be seen as a call for a ceasefire "if anyone responds."

"If military action could be brought to a halt then... (there) would be an opportunity to seriously try to seek a political solution, a diplomatic solution satisfactory to all," the King told a press conference at the Royal Court. Asked whether he was calling for a ceasefire, the King replied: "If anyone responds."

King Hussein said he hoped "the present slide towards the tragic, disastrous and unknown be halted as soon as possible." He stressed, however, that he was not speaking on behalf of Iraq or anybody else and that he had no contact with the Iraqi

leadership since the start of hostilities.

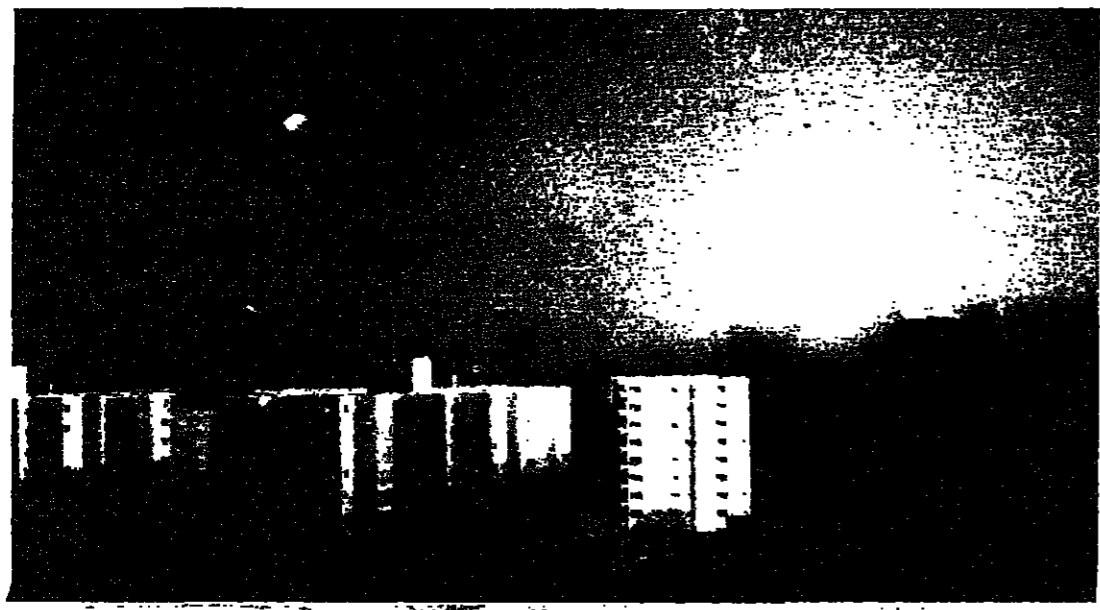
The King warned that the Gulf war would have a great impact on the future of the

Middle East region and its people and the world as well for

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## Not older, more sublime

DESPITE his and Jordan's sombre — and largely depressed — mood, His Majesty the King looked well and laid back at his press conference yesterday. It was at best that he looked in nearly six months of the Gulf crisis that erupted July 17. It is probably because, like the rest of Jordanians, he has resigned himself to the fact that the war has started despite all the Jordanian efforts to avert it, and, maybe, he might have been able to sleep a few hours last night. During the noisy conference, in which 150 journalists from all over the world could not organise themselves in a good questioning group, the King had an added reason to look in better shape. His newly-grown beard had almost fully grown in place. Asked why he now had a beard, the King offered an instant answer: He had a rash and not shaving would have helped to get rid of it. Then the King volunteered a more sublime and direct answer. His grandfather, the founder of the Kingdom, King Abdullah had a beard. "He told me that he might be the last of the Hashemites to grow a beard. After 38 years in power and 55 years of age, I think I have the right to grow a beard," the King said with a broad smile on his face — A.E.



This photograph of nighttime raids on Baghdad was taken by a journalist who arrived here from the Iraqi capital Saturday. He did not want to be identified.

## Possibility seen of prolonged conflict

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is stepping up the flow of military supplies to the Gulf, preparing for the possibility of a long war despite the early success of air attacks on Iraqi forces, defence officials said Saturday.

"The Iraqis are taking a hell of a pounding from allied air (attacks). We are increasing the pressure in both Iraq and Kuwait, but we have made clear that this could go on for some time," said one Pentagon official.

He and other officials, who asked not to be identified, said the military was not running short of bombs and rockets despite over 4,000 allied air missions by late Saturday, but that ammunition and supplies were being used at a high rate and it was necessary to prepare for re-supply shipments.

In Saudi Arabia Saturday, U.S. Marine Major-General Robert Johnston told reporters there was no way to tell how long it would take to get Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

"This could be a long campaign, it will be done with great caution..." Gen. Johnston said. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney Friday night authorised the armed forces to lease up to 181 commercial airliners to carry troops, ammunition and supplies to the region.

On Saturday, the Pentagon asked families and friends over 450,000 U.S. troops in the Gulf to limit shipments of personal items to letters and audio cassettes to help save cargo space for "what is necessary for sustenance."

"We anticipate this mail restrictions may be necessary for the next two to three weeks. However, this will be reviewed as the situation changes," the department said in a statement.

Defence officials declined to say what military cargo would take priority on ships and aircraft. But one noted that fighters, attack jets and bombers in the Gulf were using bombs and rockets at an almost unprecedented rate.

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## Gorbachev seeks EC role in Gulf initiative; India floats formula

LUXEMBOURG (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has urged Luxembourg, the current chairman of the European Community (EC), to join its appeal for Arab and Israeli leaders to act with restraint in the Gulf, a government spokesman said Saturday.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said in a letter to Luxembourg's Prime Minister Jacques Santer Friday that he was "concerned and worried" by Iraq's missile attack on Israeli cities Thursday night.

Luxembourg, as current holder of the EC's rotating presidency, has been largely responsible for coordinating the 12-member organisation's Gulf policy.

The spokesman could not confirm whether other EC leaders had received a similar message.

Mr. Gorbachev told Mr. Santer that he had contacted Israeli and Arab leaders and suggested it would be helpful if he would do the same, the spokesman said.

The EC issued a statement

## King receives Soviet message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received at the Royal Court Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Yuri Griadinov, who conveyed to him a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the Gulf war. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Taber Al Masri.

Mr. Santer had not yet formally replied to the letter, he added.

Mr. Gorbachev said in his letter that the missile attack on Israel was "without reason or justification and would only have aggravated the position of Iraq."

The EC issued a statement

Friday condemning the attack and urging Israel not to retaliate.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa reported Saturday that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat had received an "official and urgent" message from the Soviet leaders.

The PLO also urged the EC Saturday to join international efforts to stop the Gulf war.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, also said U.N. resolutions on the Gulf and other Middle East problems made up the basis for a political solution.

"There is a possibility for a political solution in the Middle East. Despite the raging war going on right now there is room for preventing a real catastrophe," Mr. Abu Sharif said in a statement to Reuters.

Arafat, reported to be involved in Soviet-led peace efforts, received an "official and urgent" message from President

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## Arab and Islamic protests spread

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ'S MISSILE strikes on Israel deepened a rift in the Muslim world with the public in many countries jubilant at the attack on an old enemy, but Arab allies in the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition holding firm.

From Mauritania to Pakistan and from Niger to Sudan hundreds of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets Friday and Saturday, hailing the assault on the Jewish state and denouncing the U.S.-led bombing of Iraq and Kuwait.

But Egypt, Syria and Arab Gulf states with troops in the multinational force confronting Iraq stood by their commitment to the alliance.

Many Arabs were elated that Israel's seemingly invulnerable armed forces were powerless to stop the rockets.

Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, who has been a sharp critic of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, led anti-war protests in the Libyan capital Tripoli Saturday.

The JANA news agency said the demonstrations in Tripoli

and several other Libyan cities were attended by one million people.

The agency said protesters shouted "Stop the bombardment of Iraq," "Stop the war immediately" and "Kuwait has the right to self-determination."

Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese chanted anti-American and anti-Egyptian slogans Saturday as they demonstrated in support of Iraq.

The demonstration was the largest in Khartoum in recent memory, drawing crowds bigger than those which forced the military to overthrow President Jaafar Numeiri in April 1985.

"Down, down USA," "Death, death to Israel and the Satan (USA)" and "Saddam hit America and its allies" were some of the slogans chanted during the four-hour demonstration.

Referring to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak the demonstrators said "Shame on you the Arab of the dollar," and "Saddam hit the agents and the co-workers."

Riot police armed with rifles and batons surrounded the

American and Egyptian embassies and did not allow the crowds to approach them, but otherwise allowed the demonstrators to move freely through downtown Khartoum.

More than half a million Algerians protested around the country against the U.S.-led coalition's bombardment of Iraqi targets.

News of Iraqi missile attacks on Israel set women wailing with joy in Tunis. "Tunisian Arabs have been waiting for this moment for a long time," said one young man.

In Morocco, which has sent a token force of troops to the Gulf, King Hassan threatened to impose a state of siege if pro-Iraq rallies degenerated into violence.

The mass demonstration in Algeria was organised by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which has become the country's biggest opposition party since it was legalised by President Chadli Benjedid in March 1989.

Algerian Foreign Minister Sid

(Continued on page 3)

## Washington contacts Iraqi envoy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraq's top diplomat in Washington was called to the State Department unexpectedly Saturday, and U.S. officials said one purpose was to discuss prisoners of war.

It was the first diplomatic contact reported between the United States and Iraq since before the war began.

Khalid Al Shwayish, the Iraqi diplomat, was told that his government, like all others, is obligated to "provide humane treatment" to prisoners of war.

Mr. Shwayish, the deputy chief of mission, is in charge of the four-man Iraqi embassy in Washington since the ambassador departed for Iraq.

A man who answered the telephone at the Iraqi embassy confirmed that the diplomat went to the State Department.

He was given a letter telling Iraq that the United States will abide by its obligations and that "it expected Iraq to do the same."

Cable News Network showed the Iraqi diplomat leaving the State Department. He would not comment, he said, until he had read the letter.

He saw Edmund Hall, a low-level State Department official. The State Department, meanwhile, issued a statement on the "legal obligations regarding POWs."

"As such, both nations are obligated to provide humane treatment of POWs," the statement said.

On Saturday, the United States announced the capture of the first Iraqi POWs since hostilities broke out. Iraq also has claimed the capture of allied pilots shot down over Iraq.

## Israeli involvement in Gulf war will be disastrous — Polyakov

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW'S AMBASSADOR to Cairo warned Saturday that Israeli military involvement in the Gulf war would widen its scope and lead to "dire consequences."

And Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov said this may be what Iraq intended when it launched missiles into Israel, inviting possible Israeli military reprisals.

The Gulf war was the subject as Mr. Polyakov met with President Hosni Mubarak Saturday to deliver a message from the Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev.

The ambassador refused to divulge contents of the message. But he told reporters Moscow has been trying without success

to get Iraq to relinquish Kuwait and added: "The message was a continuation of consultations at the highest level between Egyptian and Soviet leaders."

Speaking in Russian through an Arabic interpreter, Mr. Polyakov assailed Iraq's post-midnight missile attacks against Israel Friday and Saturday.

Asked about possible Israeli retaliation, Mr. Polyakov said: "I can assure you that Israeli involvement in this war would widen its scope, and this would have dire consequences. Maybe this is (Iraq's) objective."

After his talks with Mr. Polyakov, Mr. Mubarak conferred with key members of his cabinet about the missile attacks on Israel.

Safwat Al Sherif, information minister and the government's

chief spokesman, refused to answer directly reporters' questions about Egypt's position if Israel should retaliate with military strikes against Iraq.

But he said Egypt remains committed to the "liberation of Kuwait" in accordance with U.N. resolutions.

Although Sherif did not mention Israel, this suggested that Egypt would not be swayed by Israeli reprisals and would remain in the 28-nation anti-Iraq coalition. Egypt's army has more than 36,000 soldiers with U.S.-led multinational forces fighting Iraq.

Mr. Mubarak said last week he would oppose unprovoked Israeli military action against Iraq but would accept retaliation

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## Iran says it is neutral in war despite deputies' call for jihad

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's top policy-making group Saturday reaffirmed Tehran's neutral stance in the Gulf war despite calls in parliament for a holy war against the U.S. and its allies.

The declaration from a national security council meeting gained further authority by the rare attendance of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The council stressed the "neutral position of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the 'Persian' war," the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

The declaration followed calls in the Iranian parliament and press for a holy war against the United States, solidarity with Iraq and an end to Tehran's neutrality in the war launched by U.S.-led multinational forces to drive Baghdad's troops from Kuwait.

IRNA said the council,

chaired by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, also warned Israel against "spreading the war to other Islamic countries" and reiterated Iran's full support for the Palestinian cause.

It decided that Iran should step up diplomatic efforts for a quick end to the war and a solution to the crisis.

Iraqi missile attacks on Israel won praise earlier from Deputy Qorbanali Salehabadi who urged Mr. Rafsanjani's government to cut economic and political links with countries actively engaged in war against Iraq, IRNA reported.

"Every missile that hits Tel Aviv, Haifa or elsewhere in Israel is as if they are striking the White House or other American centres and shaking the foundation of the world-devouring United States," Mr. Salehabadi said.

Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali Ayatollah asked Khamenei to declare jihad against the United States and its Western allies in the anti-Iraq coalition, the agency said.

"We should not leave the Iraqi people standing alone in this battle since if the United States emerges victorious it will not leave the region easily," Ayatollah Khalkhali said.

The remarks, made at the first regular session of the parliament since the outbreak of the war Thursday, sharply contrasted with the government's neutral position.

Soon after U.S. and allied forces launched air and missile strikes on Iraq, Mr. Rafsanjani denounced the war as a catastrophe for Muslims brought about by Baghdad's "mistake" of seizing Kuwait.

## Japanese opposition urges government to seek Gulf truce

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Japanese Socialist Party has urged the Japanese government to press for a cease-fire for the conflict in the Gulf.

The party's secretary general, M. S. Takako Doi, urged Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu "not to express full support for the American military actions but to call upon the U.N. to make efforts for de-escalation of hostilities and cease-fire."

Ms. Doi was recently in Amman and discussed with His Royal Highness Prince Hassan the situation in the Gulf.

Following is the text of Ms. Doi's Jan. 18 statement on the Gulf crisis as telefaxed to the Jordan Times.

What Prime Minister Kaifu should do is not to express full support to the American military actions but to call upon the U.N. to make efforts for de-escalation of hostilities and cease-fire. Every channel for dialogue should be utilised for peace and cease-fire.

The military actions of the multi-national forces now seem to have exceeded the goal of the

U.N. resolutions, and to be aimed at complete destruction of Iraq. History teaches wars escalate as were the case in Vietnam, and Afghanistan. Considering this lesson of history, Japan should make efforts to convene an U.N. assembly session and U.N. Security Council meeting in order to bring about immediate cease-fire of the Gulf war.

The government already promised to provide further financial support for the multi-national forces. However such measures contradict with the war-renouncing constitution, and especially the recent moves taken by the government to give the U.S. a free hand in using the money, mean gross violation of the constitution.

I am also against the government over whether the Self Defence Forces be dispatched or not. Such action will only undermine the relations with the neighbouring countries in Asia, thus it will not contribute to international cooperation. Japan's contribution should be limited to relief activities of evacuees and refugees by respond-



Takako Doi

ing to the request of international institutions.

With regard to the relations with the Middle East, unlike other western countries, Japan is free of imperialist or colonialist image. Japan has not been involved in arms trade with Iraq. On Palestinian issue, Japan is one of the states supporting the U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. And Japan keeps good relations with the U.S. All of these facts tell that Japan is the most qualified country to take the peace initiative. Japan should not render any further support to war but should devote itself to recovery of peace.

## Gorbachev firm on Gulf, right-wing pressure grows

By Richard Balmforth  
Reuters

MOSCOW — President Mikhail Gorbachev is standing firmly behind Washington in the Gulf war but Moscow's commitment could come under pressure from powerful military and communist hard-liners at home.

Gorbachev, who has blamed Iraq's Saddam Hussein for the war, lent further support to the anti-Iraqi coalition Friday, telling Arab leaders not to be tempted to attack Israel following Baghdad's missile strikes on it.

He also appealed to Israeli leaders to show maximum restraint and not retaliate. Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bologov said.

"Up to now, there does not seem to be any wavering by Moscow in its commitment to United Nations resolutions. The Kremlin is saying all the right things," said a Western diplomat.

The diplomat pointed also to Mr. Gorbachev's appointment of the liberal pro-detente Alexander Bessmertnykh as foreign minister and Mr. Gorbachev's regular contacts with U.S. President George Bush and other Western leaders since war erupted.

Mounting pressure from communist and military hardliners has driven Gorbachev towards the conservative camp on the Soviet Union's Baltic republics and other internal policy issues and opened a breach with his liberal erstwhile supporters.

Analysts say that though Soviet policy on the Gulf has been clearly spelled out at the United Nations, Mr. Gorbachev may find it difficult to ignore the views of the right wing, especially if the war escalates.

Many senior military officers, nostalgic for the era of intense cooperation when Moscow was Baghdad's main arms supplier, are known to be deeply suspicious of Mr. Gorbachev's backing of the United States in the war.

Further signs of this dissent surfaced Friday.

"Can only Iraq be blamed for the war? ... Was there really no possibility of preventing it?" demanded Sovetskaya Rossiya, arch-conservative organ of the

Russian Communist Party.

Diplomats recognise that Moscow's political interests in the Middle East, already transformed by the Gulf crisis, will become even more problematic if the war escalates.

"If Israel joins the war and Moscow's other Arab friends get dragged in, Gorbachev would be really on the spot," one diplomat said.

On Friday, senior military figures branded radical Boris Yeltsin, Gorbachev's main rival and president of the giant Russian Federation, an "anti-patriot" for begging soldiers not to fire on civilians in the Baltic republics.

Mr. Yeltsin's aides said they were not counting on support from the Mr. Gorbachev, whose liberal supporters are now disowning him as he retreats from his reformist policies.

Yeltsin aide Valentina Lantseva said her chief and his supporters "expect an extreme reactionary offensive... we expect nothing from Gorbachev except reaction, black reaction."

Radicals and liberals plan a major demonstration in Moscow Sunday to demand removal of all officials responsible for ordering last week's army action in Lithuania in which 13 unarmed people and one paratrooper were killed.

Yevgeny Ambartsumov, a deputy in the Russian Federation parliament, said Friday that reports of troop concentrating around Moscow for similar action against the federation leadership were being investigated.

Mr. Ambartsumov was quoted by the unofficial news agency Interfax as saying the reports had not yet been confirmed.

In the three Baltic republics, tension remained high.

In Riga, capital of Latvia, pro-independence supporters moved huge concrete slabs into place around the radio station to frustrate any attempt to repeat the army action in Vilnius.

The republic's prime minister Ivars Godmanis, repeated demands for the dissolution of the interior ministry's elite "Black Beret" unit which authorities blame for shooting dead a man at the wheel of his government car

this week.

Ojar Potreki, ideology chief of the Latvian Communist Party which is backing a move by the self-styled National Salvation Committee to take power, said the Black Berets were the only stabilising factor in the republic.

In Tallinn, capital of Estonia, similar barricades were erected on approaches to the parliament building. Officials expressed fears of a Moscow-backed intervention while world attention was diverted by the Gulf war.

In Washington, Mr. Bush said he had expressed his deep concern in a telephone call on Friday to Mr. Gorbachev and stressed the need for a peaceful solution to the Baltic region's problems.

**Evacuation of Soviets**

President Gorbachev is seeking to evacuate all remaining Soviet citizens from Iraq as soon as possible, Vice-President Genady Yanayev said on Saturday.

"USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev has instructed the appropriate organs to do everything possible to evacuate all Soviet citizens from Iraq at the earliest date," he said.

Yanayev told Soviet television about 100 Soviet citizens had remained in Iraq voluntarily in order to finish work contracts preceding Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait.

"In the course of military activities under way in the region, not one of them has been injured," he said in remarks quoted by the official TASS news agency.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said earlier that Moscow was maintaining close diplomatic contact with Baghdad and the safety of Soviet citizens there was assured.

He said a new initiative to end the Gulf war could not be ruled out. But there had been no response to Soviet appeals to Iraq to pull its troops out of Kuwait.

U.N. diplomats said President Gorbachev plans a personal appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein urging him to announce his agreement for an immediate withdrawal from Kuwait.

## Malaysia wants Mecca and Medina as open cities

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Malaysia has proposed that Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia be declared "open cities" to ensure their permanent protection from any disaster arising from war or violent conflict in the region.

Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar made the proposal in the House of Representatives when winding up the debate on a motion on the "Implications of the Gulf war and the role of Malaysia."

Speaking to reporters later, Mr. Abu Hassan said the proposal would be forwarded to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) before being brought up at the United Nations.

He said under the open cities proposal no one would invade them, but did not elaborate.

Mr. Abu Hassan said Malaysia would make the proposal at an "opportune time."

No vote was taken on the motion as the allotted time of one hour to debate it ended just when Mr. Abu Hassan finished his

winding-up speech.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that Malaysia, a Muslim nation, will not budge from its stand of championing the interests of Muslims. He said he viewed with "serious concern and regret" the outbreak of war in the Gulf.

The official, however, called on Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait and allow the emirate to be returned to its people and "legitimate rulers."

Mr. Abu Hassan also pointed out that in discussions in Jeddah before the invasion of Kuwait, Iraq did not at all raise the issue of Palestine but only the question of Kuwait's debts and other demands.

Only after the international community condemned the invasion, did Iraq try to connect the Palestinian issue with its annexation of Kuwait, he said.

"The invasion and conquest of Kuwait by Iraq was not a jihad (holy war). In fact it represented a violation of a small and weak neighbour by a big strong country," Mr. Abu Hassan said.

## U.S. navy says ships enter Gulf at own risk

BAHRAIN (R) — The U.S. navy warned merchant ships Saturday they entered the Gulf at their own risk after mines were confirmed floating off Bahrain and were reported off the United Arab Emirates.

A statement issued by the commander of U.S. navy forces in the Middle East, Admiral William Fogarty, said there was also a potential risk of missile, air and surface attacks.

"All merchant vessels are advised to enter the Arabian Gulf at their own risk," the statement said. U.S. navy officials on Saturday said the statement had been issued about 2300 local time Friday (2000 GMT).

It said floating mines had been confirmed in the Gulf at latitude

26:28 north, longitude 50:57 east and reported, but not confirmed, further south at latitude 25:21 north, longitude 54:45 east.

"Due to current hostilities with Iraq, there is also potential for missile strikes, air attacks and surface warfare actions within the Arabian Gulf," the statement said.

U.N. sanctions against Iraq would continue to be strictly enforced, it said.

"All merchant vessels entering the Gulf will be subject to close scrutiny by warships for identification and possible visit and search," Admiral Fogarty said.

Dozens of warships from the multinational coalition at war with Iraq over its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait are in the Gulf.

## Quotes to remember

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein called it "the mother of all battles." U.S. President George Bush said, "the battle is joined, we will not fail."

Here are some other things that people said on the first day of operation desert storm.

"Wake up. Run for shelter. They've come. They've come." Someone at the hotel door of Reuters correspondent Bernd Debusmann in Baghdad, announcing the first air strike.

"While flashes are everywhere, bullets are being fired up into the air. There is tremendous lightning in the sky." Channel News Network reporter John Holliman in Baghdad, announcing the start of the war.

"Greetings to you symbol of bravery and manhood," Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's son Uday to his father on his way to the war front in a message dated Jan. 15, the day a U.N. ultimatum to Iraq to quit or face war expired.

"I get a fireball and the airplane blows up. Pieces get scattered everywhere ... I don't anticipate anybody getting out of that," Captain Steve Tate of the U.S. air force tactical fighter wing, claiming the first kill of the campaign.

"We have reason to be satisfied with what has happened up to now. The overall picture seems to be one where Iraq is strategically defeated," Israeli government spokesman Yossi Olmert.

"The immediate gains of the allied attack for Israel are obvious. ... It does not have to fight a war to have a threat against it neutralised," Mark Heller of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies in Jerusalem.

"There is a curfew until further notice. Whoever violates the curfew would be risking his life." Israeli army vehicles broadcasting to reinforce a curfew in the occupied territories.

"Everybody feels bitter and is disappointed and frustrated. People are in shock," Saeb Erekat, a political science professor at Najah University in the West Bank city of Nablus.

"A safe area has been created in the ... disco and the Al Badiyah banquet rooms," sign in one of Amman's hotel.

"It was a very good day for consumers." Koil Trader Peter Gignoux of Lehman Brothers International after oil prices fell \$10 a barrel to close around \$20.

"Signing off from Baghdad for CNN and hope that we can resume our communications with you in the very near future," the three CNN reporters in Baghdad when the Iraqi authorities closed down their communications to the outside world.

"I am afraid of very serious consequences reflecting on the Arabs and American people in the future," Libyan Leader Muammar Qadhafi in a television appeal for an end to the conflict.

"If at any point he (Saddam Hussein) wants to change course here all he has to do is surrender and comply with all the U.N. resolutions," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

"Barbaric raids by enemy aircraft on Iraqi towns and villages left 23 martyrs and 66 others wounded," the Iraq News Agency.

"Today is one of the bitter days in our lives and in all Muslims' lives that we see Muslims and their resources being destroyed by arrogant powers led by the hegemonist and aggressive United States," Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"The attack on Israel is coming. The decision has been taken. The timing is of course a secret," Iraq's ambassador to Belgium.

"The pause for peace mandated by the United Nations Security

Council Resolution 678 is over." U.S. State Department spokeswoman.

"There's not much I can do. It depends on Iraq, whether Iraq capitulates," U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"You imagined that threats will make Iraq kneel. Withdraw your forces and the forces of your allies. This is the only path," Saddam Hussein in a message to George Bush.

"There is an emergency in Tel Aviv ... I can hear ... explosions" a Cable News Network reporter in Tel Aviv on the Iraqi missile strike.

"This was the day I have waited for since I was born" Palestinian Younsa Omri, in Jordan, on the Iraqi attack.

"We are going to be redoubling our efforts in the darnedest search-and-destroy effort that's ever been undertaken out in that area" U.S. President George Bush, pledging to destroy Iraqi missile launchers.

"In the history of the Arab World did you see any Arab leader fire a missile at Israel? Only Saddam Hussein did it" Jordanian Nabla Sweis celebrating the Iraqi attack.

"We have said publicly and to the Americans that if we were attacked we would react. We were attacked" Israeli defence Minister Moshe Arens.

"This is a dangerous turn of events ... We view it with great concern because it is fraught with the most grave consequences." A spokesman for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Whoever took parts of the missiles that fell this morning is requested to return them immediately to the nearest police station for analysis" Israeli army asking souvenir hunters to return Iraqi missile fragments.

"Anti-aircraft guns are firing ... the lights are still on ... there are starbursts in the sky," CNN Correspondent Bernard Shaw in Baghdad when allies bombed for a second night.

"I can guarantee the world that as every hour goes by, he (Saddam) is going to be less able to respond, less able to stand up against the entire world," George Bush.

"The men of our regional air defences are reaffirming that they are erecting a barrier of fire for the enemy aircraft and turning them into ashes scattered by the wind" Iraqi radio.

"They had a U.S. pilot who looked very sad at his situation. He was not injured," an Iraqi taxi driver whose vehicle was commandeered by Iraqi military to take a captured U.S. pilot to an unknown location.

"It's puzzling but maybe people in Iraq have decided to sit it out on the assumption the war might be short" Rolf Jenny of the International Organisation for Migration on the small refugee flow from Iraq.

"How can the Arab countries, who have sent forces to defend Saudi Arabia saying they would not support any attack against Iraq, justify their attitude now that the American forces of aggression are undertaking the global destruction of Baghdad, capital of Arab civilisation" The PLO.

"We have amazing volatility and strong volume. Everyone has their seatbelts on" Gregory Bundy of Merrill Lynch Japan, on soaring stock markets following initial euphoria over allied raids.

"We're not suggesting that life should be disrupted" White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater on suggestions that the superbowl football championship be postponed.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

10:00 ... Children's programmes

10:30 ... News

10:50 ... Sports programme

11:00 ... News summary

11:10 ... Local programme

11:20 ... News summary

11:30 ... Programme review

11:40 ... News in Arabic

11:50 ... News summary

12:00 ... News and Reports

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ... Des Chiffres et de Lettres

18:00 ... News in French

18:15 ... Documentary

18:30 ... News in Hebrew

18:45 ... Varieties programme

19:00 ... News in Arabic

19:30 ... Mother and Son

21:10 ... Sweat of the Sun - Tears of the Moon

"Sweat of the Sun - Tears of the Moon" 22:00 ... News in English

22:20 ... Paradise

### PRAYER TIMES

05:11 ... (Sunrise) Dhuhr

06:32 ... Dhuhr

11:46 ... 'Asr

14:36 ... Maghrib

17:00 ... 'Isha

18:21 ... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth

Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

632705

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440.

De la Saile Church Tel. 661757

Terrassuta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel.

626343.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and rainy at

times, and a drop in temperatures will

take place. In Aqaba, it will be partly

cloudy and there will be a chance for

scattered showers of rain.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 4 / 11

Aqaba 8 / 18

Deserts 3 / 16

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Adel Amari 812148

Dr. Salah Al Issoud 69028

Dr. Amwar Al Haj 771020

Dr. Issam Al Asmar 890405

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nalroukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salum pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Jordan Valley 9 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

man 14, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings:

Amman 60 per cent, Aqaba 31 per

cent.

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 199

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891226

Blood Bank 77121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 63021

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Amman Municipality 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 661101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111

Jordan Television 774111

Radio Jordan 774111

# Home News

## Cash fever subsides

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Banking operations in the country have returned to almost normal after a week of heavy cash withdrawals in the run-up to the explosion of war in the Gulf, several leading banks reported Saturday.

"We have all indications that frenzied withdrawals have subsided," said a senior official at the Arab Bank, the leading commercial bank in Jordan. "Those who wanted to withdraw money have already done so, although nowhere near the level that we witnessed in the first few days of August," he added.

According to Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) figures, as much as JD 150 million were withdrawn from private accounts and deposits in the first few weeks after the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. There was a marked reversal of the process since mid-October — when signs were strong that a peaceful solution to the crisis was in the offing — and most of the money was returned to the accounts by December. CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi said.

Senior officials of the Housing Bank and the Bank of Jordan agreed with the Arab Bank official's assertion that although sizeable queues were spotted at the counters of several banks in the capital Saturday.

"At one branch in Amman today, we had cash withdrawals of JD 7,000 and deposits of JD 3,000," said a Housing Bank official. "For us it is normal for an average day," he added.

The withdrawal-deposit ratio was more or less typical of the day's transactions as reported to the Jordan Times by several other banking officials.

In contrast, some banks had reported totally disproportionate withdrawal and deposits last week; in some cases as much as JD 40,000 were with-

drawn against deposits of less than JD 10,000 from a single branch.

"I believe that the high withdrawals in general at all banks were mostly for the purposes of shopping for emergency supplies and hoarding foodstuffs and staples," said Dr. Maher Al Waked, executive director of the Bank of Jordan. "So I will not be surprised if the amounts withdrawn were not immediately returned to the accounts in the short term."

Dr. Waked said many clients had been listening to his advice to keep just enough cash for one month's expenses.

"I would not describe it as panic withdrawals," he said. "Yes, there was a rush for cash, but the volume involved was not very high; definitely not in terms of tens of millions."

Dr. Fahed Faneek, an analyst who keeps a close watch on banking movements in the country, estimated that JD 30 million were withdrawn from private accounts during last week.

"In view of the situation, I see it as rather low," he said.

Dr. Jawad Al Anani, a prominent economic analyst, said he did not believe that there was any significant flight of funds from Jordan despite the rising fears of war.

"It is not new for Jordan to undergo such an experience," he said. "We have had this experience during the 1956 and 1967 wars as well as the Iran-Iraq war," he recalled.

But, Dr. Anani said, most people "are now hanging onto their money in cash... just in case."

"It is not as if they are rushing to buy foreign exchange and keep it... at the same time they are not spending it either," he said. "Even importers are taking it easy on their purchases."

The exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar both in the official banking circles and in the parallel "black" market has remained steady for several weeks now, indicating no

unusual demand for any foreign currency. But many have been shedding the Iraqi dinar.

Dr. Faneek noted that commercial banks were providing enough liquidity in foreign exchange and meeting the needs of the market without having to exercise their option of accepting the Central Bank's offer to step in wherever needed.

"This boosts people's confidence in the banking system," he said.

But Suzanne, a housewife, said she had withdrawn her savings of JD 4,000 since she "felt safer with cash at home because the chance is always there that one may not be able to get to the bank in an emergency situation."

Eael Abu Samra, a private sector employee, was blunt.

"It is a war situation and we don't have the least idea how it is going to turn out," he said. "I don't want to be one whose money is in the bank round the corner but unable to get it when I need it."

A supermarket owner who preferred anonymity said he was "keeping just enough cash in the bank to cover cheques on a daily basis."

"I don't want to be under the mercy of the banks when I need money in a hurry," he added.

Dr. Waked also observed that consumer prices had gone up over the past two weeks and suggested that this might also be a reason for higher cash withdrawals.

According to a finance ministry official, "if there was to be any flight of funds from the country it has already taken place."

"Most of the foreign exchange in circulation in the parallel market in August still remains in the country," he added. "As far as I am aware, everyone wants to keep the cash and is reluctant to draw from their 'strategic reserve' under the mattress," he commented.

Dr. Waked said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

## House cables appeal for help to stop aggression on Muslim Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday sent cables to Arab, Islamic and friendly parliaments and national assemblies in a number of nations urging them to intervene and do all they can to stop the war in the Gulf.

At this very critical moment in the history of the nations in this region we implore you to take a wise and courageous step and help stop the ongoing military aggression by the United States and its allies against Iraq, said a cable addressed to the speaker and members of the national assembly of Pakistan.

"History will never forgive any indifference towards the crime being committed against a Muslim nation and we urge you to take whatever necessary steps needed to stop the aggression," the cable continued.

It said that the Jordanian people hope Pakistan's Muslim people will not participate in the present aggression on Iraq.

A cable sent to the Iranian parliament voiced Jordanian parliament's appreciation to Iran's honourable stand in the face of the U.S., the "Great Satan" and the main enemy of the Islamic World.

"Since the start of the Gulf crisis, your House took a very honourable stand which has been instrumental in exposing the United States and its allies and stokes and which helped spread awareness among the various Islamic people to Washington's evil intentions in the region," the cable said.

The cable urged Iran and its people to maintain their strong and honourable stand in the face of the criminal forces and to lead the Islamic nation against the forces of evil.

Another cable went to the Turkish national assembly urging the Muslim nation to refrain from participating in the ongoing aggression against Iraq or encouraging others to participate in the war.

The cable said "history will never forgive any condoning of crimes committed by a Muslim nation against another specially Iraq which has never launched attacks on Turkey and which has

always retained good neighbourly relations with the Turkish nation and indeed contributed to its economic progress."

The cable urged the Turkish national assembly to do all it can to stop the hostilities and refrain from committing Turkey to any aggression on Iraq.

The Lower House also sent a cable to the Egyptian Peoples Assembly noting that the Egyptian people have always supported Arab and Islamic countries and contributed towards their liberation. The cable urged the Egyptian parliamentarians to adopt an honourable stand vis-a-vis the American aggression on Iraq.

The aggression on Iraq can only serve the interests of Israel which has been occupying Arab land in Palestine, Golan, and Lebanon and suppressing Arab people and launching aggression on neighbouring Arab states," said the cable. "Arab Nation looks to you for help and expects that you will never let them down by assisting the aggression."

The Lower House's cable to the Syrian People's Assembly spoke of Syria's national role against the imperialist nations, and urged the Syrian people to help thwart America's current aggression on Iraq. "The Israeli enemy stands to benefit from the aggression on Iraq which, along with the honourable Arabs, expects Syrian help to confront the invaders," said the cable.

The Lower House also sent cables to the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European parliaments urging them to find means to settle the problems of the Middle East, particularly the Palestine question, and to end the aggression on Iraq.

The cable to European parliaments urged parliamentarians to consider their governments' decisions of backing the United States in the war on Iraq — a war being condemned by all peoples of the world.

The cable appealed to the European parliamentarians to work for a peaceful solution for the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

## RJ resumes U.S., Canada flights

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier, announced Saturday the resumption of its flights to the United States and Canada and said that flights to Larnaca in Cyprus and Vienna in Austria would continue.

An RJ statement said that one of its aircraft will make the flight to the United States and Canada, thus ending a three-day stoppage of RJ flights to these destinations.

The statement gave the following telephone number to be contacted for direct reservation: 678321 or the RJ offices around the Kingdom. The statement noted that RJ flights to Larnaca and Vienna would continue on daily basis.

Asked to give more details about further flights to the U.S. and Canada, RJ officials said that there were no set schedules for further flights.

Thursday, RJ announced that Jordanian airports were operating and open to receive planes from all countries, but said that RJ aircraft would be grounded for the time being in view of the situation in the Gulf.

Director-general of the Queen Alia International Airport, Ahmad Jweiber, said that Jordanian airspace was open for all flights but that foreign airlines operating from and to Amman had suspended flights to Jordan for the time being because of increased war insurance charges.

## Government freezes leaves of absence; ministries ready emergency operations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian government employees cannot get leave of absence from now and until further notice in view of the present emergency situation in the region, according to an official communique issued by the prime minister's office Saturday.

The communique also said that those civil servants and employees already on leave should return to their work immediately.

An earlier statement from the Ministry of Education suspended Tawjih mid-year examinations until further notice but all government departments have been operating normally six days a week.

The Ministry of Education, meanwhile, announced that as part of its preparations to deal with any emergency situation, it has set up an operation room which would be linked to the Higher Defence Council.

A ministry statement said that a special timetable has been worked out to be carried out in shifts by four committees for first aid, rescue operations, fire fighting and public guidance.

The statement said that an experiment for emergency evacuation from the premises was

carried out at all ministry departments around the Kingdom in cooperation with civil defence services.

The statement also announced that some schools in the provinces as well as Amman have been prepared to serve as first aid centres and have been supplied with the essential equipment and supplies.

The Ministry of Health for its part announced Saturday that it has finalised preparations for emergency situations and noted that full coordination was being carried out with the private sector to provide medical services to the public.

A statement said that a series of meetings were held at the ministry in Amman to coordinate its departments services with those of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, the General Union of Voluntary Societies, the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the doctors, nurses and pharmacists associations and other organisations.

At the meetings a general review of hospital facilities and their capabilities to deal with emergencies was made.

## Srour inspects water stations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation says its emergency plan to ensure water to various regions under all conditions and in the face of all emergency cases has been in operation for more than a week now.

According to ministry officials, Water and Irrigation Minister Saad Hayel Srouf has been visiting various water pumping stations and discussing with ministry and Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) engineers arrangements for ensuring water supplies to different areas.

The minister has visited the Jordan Valley region and the Deir Alla water purification station, as well as the King Abdullah Canal which supplies irrigation water to Jordan Valley farmlands.

The ministry has installed 23

mini-operation rooms in the various governorates manned by specialists, engineers and officials working for 24 hours a day, said the minister in a statement upon the inception of the emergency plan.

Srouf said the ministry has provided various pumping stations with alternative means to ensure continuous water pumping should the main power supply fail for any reason.

According to Acting Secretary General Mahmoud Al Hiyari, sufficient water supplies exist in the Kingdom at present, but the problem that Jordan "would be facing might emerge in the summer starting from mid-May should there be no rainfall in the coming two months."

Hiyari told the Jordan Times that along with the emergency plan now in operation, the

ministry's water distribution programme introduced in the summer of 1990 would continue until further notice and until sufficient water has been collected.

The ministry estimates that Jordan uses 180 million cubic metres of water annually for domestic purposes, an amount expected to rise to 260 million by the year 2005 due to population growth.

It said that 350 million cubic metres are annually used in agriculture, but more supplies would be needed if agricultural projects are to be expanded.

According to Hiyari, the water level in the dams is now dangerously low but it is hoped that the coming two months would bring in rain to replenish the reservoirs.

## QAF sets up emergency team

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) Saturday announced the creation of an emergency committee to coordinate matters with concerned authorities in providing emergency assistance to the public through its various centres in the country.

The decision was made at a meeting chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of QAF's board of trustees. Discussions at the meeting centred on services to the public under the prevailing conditions.

The Princess stressed the need for QAF to coordinate programmes with the concerned authorities and voluntary and charitable centres.

She also voiced appreciation to the enthusiasm displayed by members of the public to offer

voluntary work in civil defence, relief and blood donations.

The meeting, which was attended by directors of QAF's centres in the country, discussed means of raising the level of services and preparation for dealing with emergencies.

The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan, which also provides services on voluntary basis, announced Friday that it was preparing its 40 centres for emergency and evacuation operations and was supplying ambulances and basic equipment for the needed services.

It said its centres would be coordinating services with the Civil Defence Department and the Ministry of Health.

## Arabiyat, Atiqa discuss Jordan-U.N. cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.N. resident representative in Jordan, Ali Atiqa, Saturday discussed with the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Jordanian U.N. cooperation with regard to assistance provided by Jordan to the evacuees from Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Atiqa voiced U.N. appreciation of Jordan's humanitarian services to the evacuees and its ongoing efforts to repatriate them.

The meeting came one day after Jordan announced the opening of the Ruweisah border post allowing in thousands of stranded evacuees from Iraq. The border post was closed 11 days ago when Jordan said that it was not in a position to deal with mother influx similar to that witnessed following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait in August.

But United Nations organisations, especially the U.N. Disaster and Relief Organisation

(UNDRO) has promised to provide the funds needed to cover the cost of providing food and shelter to the evacuees at the desert camps near Ruweisah and Azraq, prompting Jordan to consent to the reopening of the borders.

Over the past months, Jordan spent \$56 million on the evacuees and received a mere \$12 million in cash.

Salameh Hammad, head of the Evacuee Welfare Committee said in an official statement that the decision to reopen the borders was also taken for humanitarian reasons.

UNDRO has already collected \$56 million to cover part of the cost of caring for the evacuees, but more funds will be needed depending on the volume of evacuees converging on the camps, Hammad said.

The meeting with Arabiyat was attended by the newly formed emergency committee from the Lower House

parations. It decided to make the municipal centres, schools and charity societies as first aid and emergency centres and decided to equip them with the needed requirements.

Zarqa chamber of commerce and the government's municipalities will provide money and material needed for equipping these centres.

## Kilani presses jihad spirit, unifying ranks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani Saturday urged directors of ministry departments to mobilise the nation with the spirit of (Jihad) struggle to achieve victory for the nation.

Addressing a meeting with these directors of his office, Kilani said that leaders of Muslim communities bear the responsibility of defending Jordan and the Arab World in conjunction with the Muslim brothers in Baghdad and Jerusalem.

Kilani urged the directors of various departments to take measures designed to eliminate all causes of discord and dissension within the Muslim community, and to fight all hostile propaganda campaigns designed to sabotage the nation's unity.

What is needed at present and under the present difficult circumstances is solidarity and unified solid ranks to confront any challenge, the minister said at the meeting.

Later Saturday, Kilani made tours of departments of Awqaf in Salt and made similar appeals to the local communities there.

## Army chief visits units

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Saturday visited several of the armed forces formations and units where he was briefed by the commanders there on preparations to confront any kind of challenges that might arise from the current situation.

Abu Taleb thanked the officers and soldiers of these units for their efforts and the ongoing preparations and the high morale they were enjoying and called on them to be fully alert and ready to protect the country from any dangers facing it.

Abu Taleb also visited a unit where he met with reservists. The Chief of Staff addressed the reservists conveying to them the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein.

## Iraqi hits on Israel arouse emotional response

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Popular reaction in Jordan to the continued aerial bombardment of Baghdad by the U.S.-led multinational forces was one of extreme anger. The amount of explosives used in the bombing of Iraq, which His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday exceeded that of the nuclear bomb used against Hiroshima in 1945, was seen by most Jordanians as a savage attempt by the superpower and its allies to destroy the capabilities of the Arab Nation as a whole.

While relieved that Israel, which is seen by most Jordanians as the real cause behind the outbreak of the war, was being hit by Iraqi missiles, most Jordanians seemed increasingly outraged and frustrated by their inability to come to the aid of their Arab neighbours in its hour of need.

"Imagine, it's like Detroit being bombed to pieces by Russia with the support of Texas and Florida, and the people of Pennsylvania have to stand by and watch while militarily unable to come to Detroit's help." The listeners were an American citizen and this reporter.

One Jordanian put it like this: Support for the Iraqi people has, if anything, increased since the Jan. 17 bombing of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities began. And Saddam Hussein, by making good on his promise of attacking Tel Aviv if the U.S. attacked his country, added to the feeling.

"Everything that the (President Saddam) has said he would do he has done so far," said a 45-year-old Jordanian businessman. "He has kept his word and, in response, he has gained our support and admiration."

"Saddam Hussein did not begin this war, America and Israel did," said another Jordanian businessman. "The Americans and the Israelis have been playing poker with the Arab World believing that they could cheat and lie forever, but the game is over and

the Arabs no longer want to play this game of use and abuse," he added.

While most Jordanians realise that it is unlikely that Iraq could militarily defeat the U.S. and the multi-national forces arrayed against it, they are outraged at the arrogance and the intensity of the bombing of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

"They have no mercy and Saddam should have no mercy on them," said a Jordanian businessman who recently returned from the U.S. "I never want to hear the word civilised again because it simply does not exist — the Western allies are anything but civilised and this war has put the lid on that falacy once and for all."

But it was the Iraqi attack on Tel Aviv, the first successful air attack on the Zionist state in 40 years, on the morning of Jan. 18 that aroused the most emotional response from Jordanians, Palestinians and many other Arabs residing in Jordan.

"Thank God," was the first reaction of many when they heard that Iraqi missiles had hit the coastal city.

While many people said that they were relieved that the missiles did not carry chemical warheads, they felt the attack was a justified reprisal against a state that built its existence on repressing and expelling the original inhabitants of the land.

"Now I can die in peace," said a 32-year-old mother of three. "Knowing that Israelis feared for their homes and lives gives me satisfaction," said the Palestinian woman, who was expelled from the West Bank in 1967 and had lived through the Israeli bombing of Beirut in 1982.

"I cannot turn the other cheek; they want me to deny my existence and thus I want to deny them," she said.

"It is the happiest day of my life," sighed one 50-year-old Palestinian. "After 40 years this illegal, racist and intransigent state which has grown like a cancer in our midst has been hit, it is a miracle."

## Pope deplores Gulf war

AMMAN (J.T.) — Over the past few weeks as the Gulf crisis increased in intensity, many people of the Middle East region turned their attention to the Vatican, and to His Holiness Pope John Paul II, the present-day missionary of peace, according to a statement here Saturday by Monsignor Raouf Najjar, representative of the Apostolic delegation in Jordan.

Dr. Najjar told the Jordan Times that the Pope has received numerous appeals — including those of the Jordanian people's delegation and the Middle East Christian bishops delegation — urging him to undertake a personal intervention with president George Bush and Saddam Hussein to help find a way to establish peace in the region.

In response to the appeals, Dr. Najjar said, the Pope addressed messages to the two presidents on Jan. 15, calling on them to put an end to hostilities and all forms of violence, and to try to find an effective means for averting war. But despite the appeals, he said, the war did break out, prompting His Holiness the Pope to issue the following appeal to the world community from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica:

This meeting with you, my dear fellows, is taking place at a moment of deep sadness for my heart as Father and Pastor of the

Universal Church.

The news which has reached us concerning the drama taking place in the Gulf region has evoked in me and — I am sure — in all of you feelings of deep sadness and great unease.

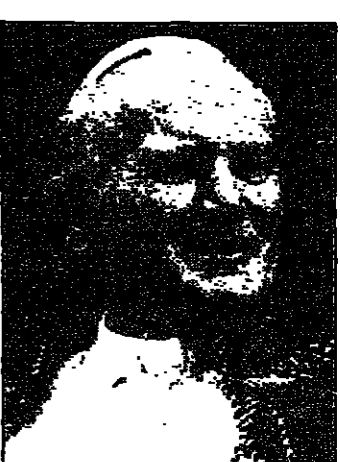
Up to the last moment, I prayed and hoped that this would not happen, and I have done everything humanly possible to avert a tragedy.

My sorrow derives from the thought of the victims, the destruction and the suffering which war can cause. I feel particularly close to all those who because of it are suffering, on both sides.

This sorrow is made even more acute by the fact that the beginning of this war also marks a grave defeat for international law and the international community.

In these hours of great dangers, I would like to repeat forcibly that war cannot be an adequate means for completely solving problems existing between nations. It has never been and it never will be!

I continue to hope that what has begun will end as quickly as possible. I pray that the experience of this first day of conflict will be enough to make people understand the need for the aspirations and rights of all the peoples of the region to be made the subject of a particular commitment on the part of the inter-



Pope John Paul II

national community. It is a question of problems the solution of which can only be sought in an international meeting at which all the interested parties are present and cooperate frankly and calmly.

I have wished to share this moment of sorrow, and to invite all of you to keep praying to the Lord that He may grant better times to the human family.

I still place my hope in courageous gestures which can shorten the time of trial, re-establish international order and enable the Star of Peace which one day shone over Bethlehem to cast its light once more over that region which is so dear to us.

## Arab, Islamic protests

(Continued from page 1)

Ahmad Ghazali said that "despite its behaviour in the past, the Iraqi people are part of blood and flesh."

"All the Arab people are in favour of Iraq," he told Algerian television, adding there would be political and social repercussions throughout the Arab World even if Iraq was defeated.

The newspaper of Algeria's ruling party called on Arab states to go to war beside Iraq and break all relations with members of the multi-national coalition now fighting to liberate Kuwait.

"put their political, military and economic potential at the service of President Saddam Hussein."

A Nigerian Muslim leader has appealed to the country's large Muslim population not to engage in violent protests because of the Gulf war, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported.

"Rather than giving vent to your anger, we should all pray to the Almighty Allah to bring the war to an end quickly," Kulia Alkali, chief imam of Fagge central mosque in Kano, a mainly Muslim city in northern Nigeria, said.

Mauritania, site of huge pro-Baghdad demonstrations in recent days, has condemned the U.S.-led military attacks on Iraq and called for an immediate ceasefire.

"Iraq has been the target of a serious aggression. The massive attacks go far beyond the objective of liberating Kuwait," the government said in a statement. "All Arab countries, the Arab World and all peace-loving nations must work for an immediate end to hostilities. Once peace is restored all the region's problems can be resolved in a peaceful manner."

Some 5,000 people demonstrated in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott Friday in support of Iraq in one of the biggest protests ever seen in the country.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
Established 1975  
مؤسسة صحفية عربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Jordanian economy under Gulf war

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

NOW that the unthinkable became a reality, and war has gripped the Gulf, the question once more presents itself: Can Jordan survive the economic impact of a protracted war?

The Jordanian economy proved itself to be more resilient under difficult circumstances than any analyst previously thought. At the same time the Jordanian people surprised themselves by their ability to take sacrifices and cut down on their standard of living more and more, even when a high ratio of the population are below the line of poverty.

When the foreign exchange crisis of 1988 erupted, economic observers thought that the Jordanian economy was based on shifting sands, and that it will collapse in no time. At the same time political observers thought that Jordan will be hopelessly destabilised if the artificially high standard of living of the people was to be touched.

All that proved to be false. The Jordanian economy did not collapse. It was adjusted, and started to recover and regain confidence and stability faster than was hoped. The Jordanian people realised the facts, absorbed the shock and started to work harder. Within a year the standard of living dropped by around 40 per cent, the employees and working class accepted to go on at the same pre-crisis nominal salaries and wages despite the sharp rise in the cost of living. More over, the tax effort was growing

rapidly despite the economic difficulties. Although the country became weaker financially and economically, it became stronger politically. The fat that was lost started to be replaced by real muscle.

The Gulf crisis which erupted six months ago was Jordan's second strong encounter with tough circumstances. The country lost all Arab oil, one third of expatriates remittances, one quarter of export markets, most of the tourism receipts and the transit business, yet Jordan survived.

The war that started last week is Jordan's third crucial challenge in 28 months. There is no reason to believe that we cannot make it again.

The major dangers which existed before continue under the war scenario that has just started. The Israeli threat and the loss of our only source of crude oil.

Apparently, Israel will not move. Under the strict instructions of the American master, Israel must keep out of the war to save the faces of the Arab leaders who betrayed their Arab Nation and sided with the barbaric aggression on the Iraqi people. If the Israeli intervention became visible, the Americanised Arab regimes will collapse under the anger of their own people.

The Iraqi oil supplies are crucial to Jordan, because the Saudis closed the tapline pipe as of Sept. 19, and Jordan cannot depend

on international oil markets due to lack of facilities and foreign exchange to buy the oil.

The government therefore must take the necessary action to save oil. Gasoline should be rationed or its price temporarily doubled, otherwise movement of all private cars should be banned. Perhaps such action may be taken before this article is published, 48 hours after it was written on Friday.

Jordan successfully passed the foreign exchange crisis, the impact of the Gulf crisis, and will definitely pass the war crisis through accepting the necessary sacrifices.

The only other economic worry is related to the possible influx of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait. Jordan already decided to prevent such influx unless international institutions give clear commitments of underwriting the cost of such an influx, which Jordan is ill prepared to deal with. Hopefully the Jordanian government will not give in on its firm position with only vague promises in return. The cost of handling each evacuee is around \$100,000 and must be paid in advance. Otherwise evacuees should go to the Saudi orders where they can be taken to their respective countries by air and sea.

There is no reason to fail in facing the war challenge as long as the government is decisive and the people are willing to understand and cooperate.

## Option for a Peruvian

IF THE U.N. secretary-general is to examine the United Nations Charter, he will undoubtedly find himself facing two options: Either to shoulder his duty as set for him by that charter or to declare his impotence and leave the job.

The U.N. Charter's 99th article stipulates that the basic responsibility of the secretary-general is to bring to the attention of the Security Council any problem which he considers detrimental to world peace and security.

The United States is now launching a military aggression on Iraq and the secretary-general sits before his television, set like other ordinary people, following up on the systematic destruction of Iraq and the obliteration of its people and infrastructure oblivious to the fact that this mad war constitutes a serious threat to world peace and security. He would not even volunteer to bring the issue back to the attention of the Security Council.

Many people around the globe believe that Perez de Cuellar's submission to Washington's will and desires since the start of the Gulf crisis has stripped him of his real mission and rendered him a mere tool implementing America's designs against a member state of the U.N. and this region as a whole.

Indeed Perez de Cuellar had been playing the role of accessory to preparations for war, though his real mission, as vested in him by the United Nations Charter, is to prevent wars and to use all that is in his power to halt conflicts. His implicit participation in war preparations was manifested in his support for the United States' violations of Article 100 of the U.N. Charter which demands that all U.N. member states undertake the pledge not to influence the secretary-general's duties and to respect his international responsibilities. But it seems that the secretary-general has totally disregarded this article and succumbed to, either through persuasion or collusion, with the U.S.' desire, and participated in allied preparations for war on Iraq under the pretext of international legitimacy. There is every perception in this part of the world and elsewhere that Perez de Cuellar has subsequently pursued his duties not like a U.N. secretary-general should do, but rather as an employee of the U.S. government by turning a blind eye to the war going on in the Middle East region.

Those who are keen on world peace and security could see by now that the U.N. chief has been rendered impotent and incapable of shouldering his duties, and has indeed consented to turning over the United Nations Organisation to the outreaching hands of the American administration. Thus, to them, his resignation seems to be a necessary first step if he is to absolve himself from the suspect role he has played so far and which opened the door for a war that could spread and undermine peace and security throughout the world. His resignation could regain for the international organisation some respect at least by those Arabs who had so much faith in it, and credibility which he himself lost lately.

Many of us hope that such action by the U.N. chief would restore for him some peace of mind he must have lost as a result of this mad and devastating war that erupted under his aegis.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE Iraqis are fighting the invaders with fire power exceeding anything the Americans had ever seen in Vietnam according to the commander of the American forces attacking Iraq at present said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. This commander has expressed his fears that his forces were going to sustain heavy losses in life and equipment should the war drag on, said the paper. These statements, the paper noted, have upset all the calculations of the allied forces who are now realising that the situation is complicated and that the attack on Iraq would not be a bed of roses as they had imagined. It seems that the "desert storm" invasion is now backfiring on the invaders who had hoped to subdue the Iraqi leadership in a lightning war that would end Iraq's presence in Kuwait, the paper continued. The paper said that the longer the war drags on, the more blood is bound to be shed on both sides, and the more is the prospect of involving other parties in the conflict. In addition, the second day of the mother of all battles witnessed demonstrations in numerous nations and also brought the masses in the Arab states aligned behind the Americans to their senses, the paper noted. It said that these masses are not only displaying delight over Iraq's missile strikes against Israeli targets, but also are expected to demand that their governments disentangle themselves from the conflict.

We were not surprised by the anger displayed by George Bush following the Iraqi missile attack on Israeli targets nor did the threat to retaliate against the attack change any of our feelings because we realise Israel's objectives and that it is the Jewish state which dragged the U.S. into this war, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. The Western alliance had planted the Jewish state in our midst for the obvious reason of ensuring its interests and to strike against any Arab country that could threaten Israel and Zionism, the paper said. This mad war which is being waged by the angry American president against Iraq is clearly designed to keep Israel's military edge over the total military force of the Arab states, and as a clear indication that the U.S. administration does not allow any country to try to help the Palestinians regain their rights in their homeland which had been usurped by the Zionists, the paper noted. It said that Bush realised that the Iraqis are insisting on linking the Gulf issue with the Palestine question and that one day it was going to use his military force to liberate Palestine from Israeli occupation. Iraq has launched a missile strike against Israel, in order to emphasise the Arab nation's will and determination to attain its national objectives, said the paper.

## Israel's possible opportunities in the Gulf war

By Dr. Marwan Ratab Asmar

IN light of the U.N. deadline of Jan. 15 for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, war broke out between the allied powers headed by the U.S.A. and British against Iraq. Israel would be the most likely to gain from the war, exploiting it, for its own political and strategic objectives.

The perception by Israeli policy makers has been an all-out attack on Iraq would serve to redress the balance of power in the Middle East that was tilting in favour of that country in the latter part of the 1980's. Iraq was said to be the fourth largest military power in the world and as such was a real military threat to Israel. A surgical strike against Iraq by the multinational force was viewed with favour in Israel since it would weaken Baghdad by undermining its military capability, its ability to initiate what was seen as military aggression, and hence the Iraqis will forge a new regional order based on the hegemony of Iraq. Iraq would be able to achieve all of this, especially if it was able to keep Kuwait, since she not only would have direct access to the waters of the Gulf, thus giving herself a strategic edge, but more importantly would hold and control 20 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves.

Thus war would be seen by Israel as a way of breaking the stranglehold that Iraq would be in a position to impose by, again, re-adjusting the balance of power in the Middle East.

However, in reality, such a balance of power means the superiority of Israel's military capability through the doctrine of deterrence and its right to use military force whenever it deems necessary. Through its vast and superior military power it would be able to wield the stick vis-a-vis its Arab neighbours, through a mixture of coercion, threat and simply naked aggression as it is the case today with Israel's frequent incursions into Lebanese territory. An all-out attack with the ability to inflict large-scale destruction on Iraq would mean that Israel could once again become the major military and hegemonic power in the region.

### The Intifada and Israel

Another factor which is considered to be at the heart of Israel's support for the war against Iraq must be to do with her failure to suppress the intifada, now entering its fourth year. The inability to quell the uprising has created a great deal of anxiety among the Israeli political establishment, some of whom are arguing for more brutal force to be used against it. Above all, the intifada has initiated an ongoing debate in Israeli social, political and military circles about the best way of handling it. Some have been arguing about granting the Palestinians an independent state, while others would only concede to granting them autonomy, and still there

are others, a growing sizeable minority who believe that the best way of maintaining Israeli security is by expelling the whole or a big group of the Palestinians, notably to Jordan.

It is the latter idea of expulsion, euphemistically called transfer, that has been gaining a lot of ground amongst a re-juvenated right wing culture in Israel, expressed in new parliamentary parties, such as Tehiya, Moledet and Tzomet. Together, with a Likud-led government that is reputed to be one of the most right wing in Israel's history, the concept of transfer is increasingly seen as the only way to rid Israel of its Palestinian population and establish an exclusively Jewish state based on the concept of Eretz Israel. For many Israelis, the opportunity to carry out this monstrous plan is presented by the Gulf war as specifically stated by the leader of Moledet.

The Gulf war and the direct weakening of Iraq as a major regional power would enable Israel to deal more effectively with the intifada. Ideas of transfer, mass expulsion, selective deportations and above all heightening military brutality against the intifada have become increasingly credible and a most effective method for dealing with what is seen as Israel's Palestinian problem for the following reasons:

First, international opinion is now focused on the Gulf war with a number of important countries, like the U.S.A., Bri-



tain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait taking an active part in it. Therefore, any action which Israel takes on the occupied territories is likely to be taken with a muted response from the international community.

Second, Israel would argue that the reasons for its harsher actions stem from the new security threat against Israel from its Arab population.

Third, any such action would be seen as more justifiable both in the eyes of certain liberal members in Israel who previously criticised the harsh brutality of the army and in the eyes of the international community.

However, now, on the third day of war in the Gulf, with Israel under attack for the second time from Iraqi Scud missiles, Israel seems to be more preoccu-

pled with defending itself than with the immediate future of the Palestinians who have been under constant curfews, repression and suffering.

This is not to say that ideas and plans about transfer, in whatever form they take, have been abandoned. It probably means that, for now at least, they have been temporarily shelved.

## Far-sighted diplomacy needed in Mid-East

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuter

LONDON — Firm, swift and far-sighted diplomacy will be needed from the United States and its allies if they win the Gulf war to prevent the Middle East sinking back into a morass of hatred and instability, Western analysts say.

Diplomatic and academic experts foresee a two-pronged Western effort to tackle the region's chronic problems, assuming the U.S.-dominated multinational force succeeds in forcing Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. In the Gulf itself, officials are talking about a new security structure to stabilise a region that has seen two major wars in 11 years, and in the levant a concerted attempt to solve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute once and for all.

But these good intentions could run up against many of the old obstacles, ranging from the intransigence of Israeli hardliners

to Arab nationalism and Islamic fundamentalism further embittered by any defeat of Iraq, analysts predicted.

"The incentive for the international community to get a solution will be greater, but I don't see the difficulties being removed," said Rosemary Hollis, Middle East analyst at Britain's Royal United Services Institute. Most experts said the allies would not allow any significant border changes if they won the war, despite possible Iranian, Syrian or Turkish claims to parts of Iraq.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

"No one wants to see Iraq dismembered," said Joyce Starr, president of the Global Policy Group, a Washington think tank. Speculation is centring instead on the likely shifts in the political power balance among the players in the region. In principle, leading winners

ought to include Iran — already being courted by some Gulf states which formerly opposed it during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war — and Syria, both long-standing foes of Iraq. Syria has sent troops to join the multinational force while Iran has stayed aloof.

But several analysts said both countries appeared too weak to step into any power vacuum created by a defeat of Iraq. While happy to see the allies smash Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Tehran and Damascus also fear a subsequent U.S. ascendancy in the region.

For this reason, and to head off any anti-American backlash among Arabs at large, Washington would need to move very carefully in its expected bid to set up a stable new security structure in the Gulf, they said.

"The Americans must not appear to be imposing a new regional order," said Shabram Chubin of the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

He said the most promising idea was to expand the existing six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to include Iran and Iraq, while ensuring that its mandate to discuss security issues did not bar members from making arrangements with outside powers.

One issue stressed by several writers is the need for arms control in an already heavily armed area, in the face of what may be attempts by some Gulf states to beef up their defences still further in the light of Kuwait's subjugation by Iraq.

But analysts said this effort would bear little fruit as long as Arab countries could point to Israel's military dominance in the region, underlining again the need for a settlement to the Palestinian question.

The weakness of the West's position has been the clash between its haste to apply U.N. resolutions to drive Iraq out of Kuwait and its lethargy over other resolutions demanding that Israel quit Arab lands it seized in

1967. Despite their refusal to grant Saddam's demand to link the Kuwait issue with the Arab-Israeli problem, many Western politicians are conceding now that a major push on Palestine must follow a satisfactory outcome to the Gulf war.

"All the U.N. resolutions deserve a new examination," Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state for humanitarian action, wrote this week. "We must apply our principles as soon as possible over these texts which have remained in suspense."

The question is whether the catalyst in the Gulf will have brought Israelis and Arabs any closer to the agreement which has eluded them for more than 40 years.

Some analysts say the United States, pressed by its Arab allies against Iraq for political rewards, may be more willing to put pressure on Israel, seeing it less and less as the strategic partner claimed by previous U.S. administrations.

"Israel is now a handicap in this (Gulf) operation, not an asset," said Sir James Craig, a former British ambassador to Syria and Saudi Arabia.

But so far, Israel has shown no inclination to accept the international Middle East peace conference most other countries believe is the key to a lasting peace. It says the conference would force it to accept territorial concessions that would damage its security.

Some experts said that if the PLO were discredited as a result of the Gulf war, this could bring to the fore other Palestinian leaders willing to settle for less than the full-fledged Palestinian state the PLO demands.

Others argued a mood of anger among rank-and-file Palestinians would frustrate this.

"If people are looking for an alternative Palestinian leadership among reasonable, secularised, westernised Palestinians — they're the ones who are losing control of the streets," Rosemary Hollis said.

## Japan wants to be 'independent'

By Irene Kunii  
Reuter

TOKYO — Japan will help U.S.-led Gulf forces the only way it can — with its chequebook — but political analysts say the economic superpower needs an independent Middle East policy.

Government leaders are increasingly concerned about Japan's international image as a country unwilling to take risks and say they want to offer more than cash.

But an alternative view, with wide support among the public and opposition parties, is that Japan should not obediently follow U.S. policy and not give unconditional support to the

### U.S.-led force.

"Japan is not being forced to offer economic aid to Gulf forces or contribute in a direct way, but we should be more involved because of how much we've got at stake in the Middle East," said Toshio Yamaguchi, a senior member of parliament in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu called parliament into session one week early on Friday to open debate on Japan's new Gulf aid plan, the details of which remain in the air.

"We will show our unwavering support for the U.S.-led international forces involved in military action," Kaifu said in announcing plans to draft a new contribu-

tion. Under U.S. pressure for a more direct role in the Gulf war, Kaifu wants to send troops, although in non-combat roles. But he is unlikely to risk proposing a second bill that would pave the way to send troops overseas for the first time since 1945. Widespread public and parliamentary opposition forced him to abandon his first attempt last November.

"What can Japan do but offer money?" said Robert Orr, a political scientist with close ties to the LDP.

"I heard this (new) promise of aid was for \$10 billion," he added. Taizo Watanabe, foreign ministry spokesman, would not comment on the amount on Friday but said the government was

considering much more than \$2 billion pledged to the multinational force last year.

It has also pledged \$2 billion to states bordering Iraq hard-hit by economic sanctions.

Political and Middle East experts here say it is even more urgent that Japan embark on an independent foreign policy.

"Japan is the only allied country not militarily involved in the Gulf war so it should create a Mideast policy centred around a peace diplomacy," said Kuniko Inoguchi, political scientist at Sophia University.

Tokyo University professor Yuzo Itagaki, an expert in Middle East affairs, said Tokyo was mimicking Washington in its foreign policy toward the Gulf.

"With no Mideast plan of its own, it just supports the United States. But it could still make efforts to solve the problem through diplomacy," he said.

Opposition members in parliament on Friday bitterly attacked the government for supporting the war and called on it to pursue diplomatic channels to solve the crisis.

Leaders of four of the five opposition parties said Kaifu should pursue diplomacy to help resolve the conflict instead of vowing total support for Washington.

The acrimonious debate revealed the deep division in opinion over the Gulf war between the pro-American ruling party and the opposition.

In an editorial on Thursday, the liberal Asahi Shimbun daily said: "Though war has broken out, Japan should not change its posture of placing priority on urging both sides to resolve the issues through peaceful negotiations."

As a result of the split in parliament, the government is unlikely to produce any concrete Gulf policies other than more money.

"I'm very much afraid Europe and the United States will not understand (our position)," said LDP legislator Mayumi Morioka, former chief cabinet secretary under Kaifu.

"We must have the support of the people and if not, we can't do anything," she said.

## Bonn seeks no direct role in Gulf war

BONN (R) — Germany made clear Friday that it remained determined to avoid direct involvement in the Gulf war.

Government spokesman Dieter Vogel said the small force of fighter aircraft Bonn has sent to NATO-member Turkey would not be used unless Iraq attacked on that front, obliging all alliance members to come to Ankara's aid.

"It is the government's view that German troops could not get involved in the Gulf war, Mr. Vogel told reporters. "If German troops were to be drawn in, then it will only be as defenders of NATO territory. I do think this will be the case."

German fears that Turkey could prove the flashpoint that drags its forces into battle for the first time since the World War II have increased since Ankara authorised the United States on Thursday to mount air strikes from its territory.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) said Bonn not be

obliged to join in the fray if Iraq attacked Turkey in response to U.S. air strike launched from its soil.

"NATO is a defensive alliance, not an alliance for the support of attacks," SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel said.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl pledged support for Washington after being sworn in for his fourth term of office Thursday, but repeated that German troops would not be sent because of a constitutional ban on sending them outside the NATO area.

Opinion polls show most Germans firmly opposed to any military action against Iraq and tens of thousands of people have taken part in daily protest demonstrations.

NATO diplomats in Brussels said many alliance members, notably Britain and the United States, were upset with the perceived lack of support from a country that is so economically powerful.

"They've had to be prodded throughout this crisis to provide money and help and a lot of people are rather tired of it," said one.

Others said Bonn had been reluctant to send 18 Alpha jets to Turkey as part of a NATO contingent of 42 planes and had agreed only after deciding it had no choice as an alliance member.

Hans Binnendijk of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said there was definite unhappiness within allied ranks about Bonn's apparent reluctance to get involved.

"I think the Turkish question should help focus German minds a bit," he said. "When the crisis is over, the question will be how it changes relationships among the allies and where the Germans will be. Their attitude could cause a 'hangover'."

He noted that the U.S.-British "special relationship," apparently dropped last year by President

George Bush in favour of more concentration on Germany, was again as strong as ever. "That is something that will endure once the conflict is over."

After Germany united on Oct. 3 last year, Mr. Kohl said the country had to take more responsibility in world affairs and he promised to seek a constitutional amendment that would allow German troops to join United Nations peacekeeping operations.

But as the Gulf crisis moved towards war, talk of changing the constitution ceased.

One of Mr. Kohl's conservative coalition partners said Friday there was no question of Bonn rushing through an amendment to allow it to send troops to the Gulf.

"I think this is totally excluded," Wolfgang Boetsch, parliamentary leader of the right-wing Christian Social Union, said. "We should only discuss it after the end of the present conflict."

## Allies

(Continued from page 1)

enemy planes, pilots or unexploded missiles.

The ruling Baath Arab Socialist Party urged Muslims to attack the "interests, facilities, symbols and figures" of multinational force members the United States, Britain, France, the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia, as well as the followers of the deposed emir of Kuwait and their allies.

Repeating President Saddam Hussein's call for a "jihad" — or holy war — against Western interests, his ruling party called it "a sacred duty to grasp this historic opportunity."

"Let the aggressors' interests be set on fire and let them be hunted down wherever they may be in every corner of the world," said the Baath Party statement.

In another development, Mohammad Abbas, secretary-general of the Palestine Liberation Front, urged Palestinians to strike at American and allied targets.

"The United States and its allies have launched a treacherous aggression on lofty Iraq and the Arab Nation," he said.

Allied aircraft have carried out more than 4,000 sorties since the start of the Gulf war and shot down 10 Iraqi planes — half of them in the last 24 hours, a U.S. military spokesman said Saturday.

Major-General Robert Johnston told a news briefing that U.S. forces suffered no casualties when they stormed nine Kuwaiti offshore oil platforms being used by Iraqis to fire at allied planes.

He said 12 Iraqis were taken prisoner in Friday night's operation, the first allied captives of the war. But he had no details of Iraqi casualties.

The United States had lost three aircraft in the last 24 hours for a total of six since the war began, according to Gen. Johnston, chief executive officer of central allied command headquarters in Riyadh.

Allied planes lost so far were two U.S. navy A-6E Intruder bombers, a navy F-18 Hornet fighter-bomber, an air force F-15E eagle dual role attack/air superiority fighter and a marine corps OV-10 Bronco forward air control plane.

The plane lost to non-operational causes was an air force F-4 G Wild Weasel jet. Britain has lost two Tornado G31 ground attack planes, Italy one Tornado IDS fighter-bomber and the exiled Kuwaiti air force an A-4 Skyhawk.

Independent Television News (ITN) reporter Brent Sadler in Baghdad said in a telephone report that areas of the Iraqi capital suffered massive bombing.

He said it was believed some of the bombing was carried out by U.S. B-52 bombers but gave no details of any damage or casualties caused by the latest air assault.

Cruise missiles were launched from U.S. battleships in the northern Gulf early Saturday, ITN reporter Michael Nicholson said.

He said fighter-bombers and ground attack aircraft carried out continuous raids from U.S. carriers and bases in Saudi Arabia.

British fighter-bombers attacked Iraqi missile sites Saturday, French fighters pounded a munitions dump in Kuwait, and U.S. jets from Turkey hit targets

in northern Iraq. U.S. warplanes took off from a NATO air base in southern Turkey and were pounding targets in northern Iraq, according to Turkish reporters observing actions at the base.

They said U.S. warplanes based in Turkey had flown four bombing missions against Iraq since Friday morning. The latest sortie was early Saturday and involved 30 jets and two refuelling aircraft, according to the reporters.

President Turgut Ozal said Friday that U.S. planes taking off from the Incirlik NATO air base, might have engaged in air attacks against Iraq.

Behind the raining of bombs and missiles is an American effort to clear Iraqi skies of anything that could disrupt the allied plan to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

But Pentagon officials said late Friday that the more than 2,100 air combat sorties on Iraqi defences and the nearly 200 Tomahawk missiles fired had not yet fully demolished Iraq's air potential to thwart any allied ground assault.

America's top soldier, General Colin Powell, said the U.S. and its allies were now shifting their raids from Baghdad and military complexes to Iraqi troops concentrations.

An administration official, who declined to be named, said an Israeli decision to forgo retaliation for attacks was conveyed to Washington after a cabinet meeting.

There was no immediate confirmation in Israel, where officials earlier vowed to strike back.

The Pentagon said three missiles crashed into Tel Aviv early on Saturday and witnesses said 16 people were wounded. At least eight Scuds wounded 12 people Friday.

"We're very happy with their decision," the U.S. official said but noted that Israel's stance was certain to change if Iraq launched a chemical attack.

In Riyadh, Johnston estimated Iraq still had about 30 fixed and 20 mobile launchers.

French armed forces Chief of Staff General Maurice Schmitt said about 30 mobile launchers were probably still operating and predicted the war would last two or three months.

Previously undetected Scud launching sites were attacked by planes flying out of the Gulf, a British commander said.

Speculation mounted about the timing of a ground attack against the 540,000 troops entrenched in Kuwait and southern Iraq but military sources in London said the huge air offensive had some way to go before winning total command of the skies.

They said the attacks had destroyed fewer than 50 of Iraq's approximately 700 warplanes because Baghdad was not committing large numbers of planes to counter air raids.

Its combat aircraft were thought to be dispersed in hardened shelters at about 40 air bases around the country, they said.

In Saturday's attack on Tel Aviv, about 50 people narrowly escaped almost certain death when a missile tore through a reinforced concrete shelter. Families that had planned to stay in the shelter switched to another at the last minute.

Almost 30 hours earlier eight of Iraq's extended-range Scud-B missiles with conventional war-

heads slammed into the crowded coastal plain, carrying out Iraq's vow to strike at Israel if war started over its invasion of Kuwait.

"This cannot go unpunished," Justice Minister Dan Meridor said after the Saturday attack. "We'll have to pick the time and the way that we do it."

Mr. Meridor was one of a chorus of ministers and officials who stressed Israel would do whatever was necessary to ensure its security.

The United States, maintaining an anti-Iraq coalition that included Arab states hostile to Israel, has been anxious to keep Israel out of the battle.

Washington argues the Iraqi attacks are an attempt to provoke an Israeli reprisal and transform the Gulf war into an Arab-Israeli conflict.

Allied leaders appealed for Israel to show restraint after the attacks and made the destruction of Iraq's mobile missile launchers a priority target for their aircraft.

President Bush monitored the Gulf war Saturday from his mountain retreat and telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Bush called Mr. Shamir shortly after 3 a.m. (0800 GMT) "to express his continuing concern about the missile attacks on Israel last night. The president emphasised that our military efforts to destroy the mobile missile launchers in Iraq are continuing. He thanked the prime minister for his understanding."

Bush invited Vice-President Dan Quayle, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and other national security advisers to Camp David, Maryland, for a Saturday briefing on the latest Gulf developments.

Mr. Fitzwater said President Bush had no other meetings scheduled but was receiving regular updates from the Defence Department.

On Friday, Mr. Cheney declared an "airlift emergency" and ordered at least 17 more commercial cargo planes pressed into service to help ferry U.S. war materials to the Gulf.

A bomb exploded near a U.S. library in Manila Saturday injuring an Iraqi student and killing another man who was apparently carrying the device, police said.

In Beirut, the U.S. embassy said Saturday they had received a "credible" threat of imminent attacks against U.S. Israeli, British and Australian facilities there, including airlines.

Police in New York City reported they have investigated an average of 150 bomb scares per day — 10 times the average — since Tuesday.

Iraq's senior diplomat in Western Europe Saturday predicted further attacks on Israel.

Iraq's ambassador to France, Abdul Rezak Al Hashimi, was asked by British radio if he expected more missile strikes on Israel following Saturday's attack.

"As long as the war continues, yes," he answered.

Mr. Hashimi said in the telephone interview that the war had only just begun.

"We said we would do a lot of things. Believe me, some of it is still to come... it is going to be a long war."

Mr. Hashimi said Iraq considered Israel to have been part of

the conflict from the moment it began.

"Iraq's destruction is an Israeli strategy all along," he said. "The plan was for the United States to do the job for Israel."

But the ambassador added: "If they were thinking it was going to be an Iraqi-American war, they were making a big mistake."

## Gorbachev

(Continued from page 1)

Gorbachev Friday about the Gulf crisis, the Palestinian news agency WAFA said.

Arafat also met Iraq's ambassador to Tunisia on Friday evening, WAFA added.

Palestinian sources say the PLO leadership is in contact with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad, where U.S.-led forces have been bombing targets for three days.

They say Moscow is trying to arrange a ceasefire.

India Saturday proposed a new formula to settle the Gulf war, calling for a pause in the fighting and an Iraqi announcement of a time-bound programme of troop withdrawals from Kuwait.

A foreign ministry spokesman said Foreign Secretary M. V. K. Murthy summoned the Iraqi ambassador and asked him to convey the Indian proposal to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

India, a member of the U.N. Security Council, had discussed its proposal with other council members since last Friday, the spokesman said.

India's proposal reaffirms the responsibility of the Security Council to restore peace and security in the region, the foreign ministry spokesman said.

It calls for the immediate suspension of hostilities in the Gulf and urges Iraq to announce immediately a time-bound programme for a complete troop withdrawal from Kuwait.

The Indian proposal was said to have been suggested by Ben-Sid Abderrahmane, Algeria's ambassador to the United States, who has been lobbying envoys at the United Nations for two days.

India, a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement with friendly ties to Baghdad before the crisis, was "getting in touch with all the leaders of the world" in a search for a peace settlement, Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said in a speech on nationwide television.

"Our immediate efforts should be to restore peace in that area (the Gulf). All other matters can be taken care of subsequently," he said.

"I realise that time has not passed," said the 63-year-old grizzled veteran of Indian politics who has a reputation for being a shrewd negotiator. "Even in this hour we should make a determined bid to see that peace is restored in this region."

"No war has a neat ending," Mr. Shekhar said in the speech. "Who is victorious today, who is going to be defeated, matters little. Ultimately, it is humanity which loses."

Unfortunately, the trend has been of escalating the war theatre," he said. "This tendency should be stopped."

"I appeal to all the concerned people not to escalate the war and try to come to terms so that peace is restored immediately in that area, and then we can think about all other problems in a more calm cordial atmosphere," Shekhar said.

## King

(Continued from page 1)

generations to come. He regretted that Jordan's effort since Aug. 2, had been "blocked and scuffed."

The King said he hoped that a speedy end to the five-month-old Gulf crisis would usher in a resolution to the other problem, the Palestine question, "that has been with us for 23 years."

He said he was deeply saddened by the development of events since the start of hostilities that began when the U.S. and its allies started their massive air bombardment against Iraq in the early hours of Thursday.

Asked whether Jordan stood on the side of the conflict the King said he and the Jordanian people "have the greatest concern for the future as well as the present of this Arab World to which we belong."

"The effort that was (expended) on the war option was infinitely greater than anything that happened at the diplomatic table," he said.

King Hussein reiterated Jordan's stand towards any incursion on the territory of the Kingdom: "We will defend our territory and airspace against any possible incursion from any side to any conflict."

He stressed that although Jordan's means were limited, "we are determined to ensure that our airspace and land are not violated from any side to any conflict."

The King said he believed that Iraq "faces what it faces at this time" because in the past it came to the help of Arabs whenever their help was needed.

Referring to the magnitude of the war waged by the U.S.-led alliance on Iraq, the King said with irony that Iraq was under attack by a force originally prepared for other circumstances, West-East confrontation, and that "the great coalition is using surface to surface missiles, thousands of sorties by the most modern aircraft on a Third World country."

"And some are proud of having been able to mobilise such a force against an Arab country," the King said in an apparent reference to Arab leaders in the anti-Iraq coalition.

The amount of explosives dropped on Iraq and Kuwait far

## King

(Continued from page 1)

exceeded the power of the U.S. atomic bomb on Hiroshima, he said.

"This is a country (Iraq) that has been denied medicine and food for the last five months," he said. "Only God knows how many thousands might have fallen dead."

"The future is bleak, extremely bleak for all of us in the Arab World," the King told an estimated 200 journalists from all over the world.

He expressed deep satisfaction at the progress of Jordan's democratic process which he said was a "very interesting period in the life of the country and its people."

He said that freedom and democracy in the country made it possible for Jordan to live peacefully "without the usual measures that governments feel they have to adopt under far less dangerous circumstances."

Asked about the Parliament's strong condemnation of the U.S.-led attack on Iraq, the King said: "I believe parliament has the right to express people's anger and frustration and despair over what has been happening in the Arab World."

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## Long war

(Continued from page 1)

Large stockpiles of food, ammunition and supplies were built up in Saudi Arabia and other areas of the Gulf during the five-month U.S. buildup, but supplies are used much more quickly in a war situation," said one official.

"This war could end next month," he said. "Or, it could go on longer depending on what kind of punishment the Iraqis are willing to take."

Mr. Cheney himself cautioned reporters after the initial United States and allied aircraft attacks against Iraqi forces that the war could go on for a "considerable time."

In London Saturday, British Prime Minister John Major told a news conference he had never been caught up in euphoria over the early success of allied air attacks. He said it was possible that the morale of Iraqi forces might crack quickly.

"But on the understanding that that doesn't happen, then it may be a considerable time before the matter is satisfactorily concluded," he added.

He pointed out that the key is early detection and added: "You have a matter of seconds to react."

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## Protests

(Continued from page 1)

administration official said Israel had told the United States it would not retaliate for the two



Ouverture des hostilités tous azimuts

# La nouvelle guerre du Moyen-Orient

Comme le souhaitait Saddam Hussein, la guerre du Golfe, qui s'est ouverte dans la nuit de mercredi à jeudi, a commencé à prendre la forme, la nuit suivante, d'une nouvelle guerre du Moyen-Orient. On avait pu croire, l'espace de 24 heures, sur la foi d'informations américaines et anglaises, que Saddam Hussein avait été écrasé par la première vague d'assauts aériens de la force multinationale basée en Arabie Saoudite, et mis hors d'état de nuire à qui que ce soit. Mais Saddam Hussein n'a pas tardé à démentir les esprits en envoyant une dizaine de missiles SCUD sans charge chimique sur Tel Aviv et Haïfa, en Israël, la nuit suivante. Il établissait ainsi par la force, et comme il l'avait annoncé, le lien qu'il réclamait depuis le 12 août entre l'occupation d'Israël en Palestine et l'occupation irakienne au Koweït, qu'il estime ne pas avoir été traitées par les Nations Unies sur un pied d'égalité. Tout

l'effort des Occidentaux désormais, et tout particulièrement après la deuxième vague de lancement de missiles irakiens sur Israël dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi (3 SCUD sans charge chimique selon Tel Aviv; 11 selon Bagdad) consiste à retenir une riposte israélienne qui ne manquerait pas de disloquer l'alliance arabo-occidentale dans le Golfe et renforcerait l'Irak jusqu'ici militairement isolé.

En Jordanie, la riposte irakienne a réveillé l'espoir des citoyens, stupéfaits et désorientés par la nouvelle d'une défaite immédiate et passive de l'homme fort de Bagdad, décrit par le monde entier comme le détenteur d'une puissance militaire considérable. Une sorte de dépression nerveuse collective s'était emparée de la population à l'annonce de cette nouvelle, difficilement combattue par l'écoute de radio-Bagdad, qui démentait les succès annoncés par la force multinationale. Le gouvernement

jordanien publiait jeudi un communiqué condamnant l'attaque massive de l'Irak par la force multinationale. «La Jordanie, dirigeants, gouvernement et peuple, dénonce l'agression sauvage qui a eu lieu dans les premières heures de ce jour contre un pays et un peuple arabe musulman qui s'est toujours hâté de venir au secours de ses frères arabes, annonçant ce communiqué. Tous ceux qui y ont participé assument devant Dieu et l'histoire leur responsabilité dans la destruction d'une force militaire, scientifique et populaire arabe et d'un peuple arabo-musulman qui est un membre essentiel de cette Nation. La Jordanie, qui respecte les résolutions du Conseil de Sécurité, regrette qu'une crise similaire dans la région, comportant une occupation et l'exil d'un peuple arabe hors de sa patrie, n'ait pas fait l'objet de tant de résolutions et d'un embargo économique ainsi que d'une menace d'agression. La Jordanie a essayé depuis le déclenchement de la crise du Golfe de parvenir à une solution pacifique de la crise, mais elle s'est toujours heurtée à des parties qui, dès le début, étaient déterminées à opter pour l'action militaire».

La faible présence de journalistes à Bagdad et la tendance de chacun des deux camps à exagérer ses succès rend difficile à l'heure actuelle de dresser un bilan des conséquences des différentes attaques militaires.

Il semble sûr en tout cas qu'un Tornado italien envoyé en mission dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi n'est pas rentré à sa base dans les Emirats Arabes Unis, et les forces alliées ont reconnu jusqu'à présent la perte de deux autres Tornado pilotés par des aviateurs britanniques ainsi qu'un F18 américain. Quatorze pilotes ont été portés disparus, dont sept américains, quatre anglais, deux italiens et un koweïtien.

Un porte parole militaire irakien a annoncé de son côté

samedi que les défenses irakiennes avaient abattu 101 appareils de la force multinationale depuis le début des hostilités.

Le département américain de la Défense, quant à lui, avait déclaré vendredi devant le Congrès que la force multinationale avait détruit 11 avions de guerre irakiens en deux jours de bombardements.

En Israël, la première attaque irakienne a fait 12 blessés légers et occasionné des dégâts matériels «substantiels» selon un bilan israélien. D'autre part, une fillette arabe israélienne de trois ans, du village de Taïbé (entre Tel Aviv et Haïfa) est morte étouffée alors que ses parents la forçaient à revêtir son masque à gaz. La seconde attaque aurait également fait une dizaine de blessés.

L'avenir de la situation dépend donc maintenant du choix que fera Israël de rentrer ou non dans la guerre. Après la seconde attaque, Avi Pazner, porte-parole du Premier Ministre israélien Yitzhak Shamir a déclaré que les représailles étaient inévitables et les Américains semblaient ne plus faire pression que pour un caractère limité de ces représailles.

Quoi qu'il en soit, cette riposte prendra vraisemblablement la forme d'un raid aérien sur l'Irak, qui ne peut passer que par le royaume hachémite pour atteindre sa cible. La Jordanie a déjà fait savoir qu'elle ne tolérerait pas la violation de son espace aérien par des avions israéliens. Cela signifie donc que la guerre du Golfe est en train de changer de nature. D'expédition punitive contre l'Irak sous l'égide des Nations Unies pour obtenir la libération du Koweït, elle est en train de devenir la nouvelle et peut-être la plus grave guerre du Moyen-Orient, opposant une fois de plus, avec des alliances diverses, les Arabes aux Israéliens.

## Idée fausse

«La Terre est une femme et les guerres sont ses menstrues», disait Staline. Cette conception qui fait de la guerre un phénomène incontrôlable, cyclique et, finalement, nécessaire à la vie, trouve encore, malheureusement, ses défenseurs aujourd'hui. Après deux siècles, la vieille conception de Hegel qui attribue un rôle positif à la guerre n'a pas disparu.

Les forces qui gouvernent ce monde, supposées sages et sensées, ne connaissent toujours pas la pitié et la valeur des vies humaines. Pour elles, la guerre est un moyen de sortir des crises économiques et sociales dont le monde souffre aujourd'hui. Renouveler l'âme de l'humanité, assainir une situation locale ou globale, c'est encore pour cela qu'on dit faire la guerre aujourd'hui. Petite ou grande, la guerre est le mal nécessaire qui permettra ensuite de s'asseoir à Genève pour tenter —comme le proposait le président François Mitterrand sans guerre— de négocier des accords de paix et de stabilité dans la région, comme on l'a fait en Europe après la seconde guerre mondiale.

Aujourd'hui encore, la force affichée ou secrète (complots et agences diverses) prime sur la raison. L'homme normal n'a pas sa place et n'est fait que pour assister, recevoir et subir ce qu'on a choisi pour lui à l'heure ou sonne le glas.

Il serait tant que l'homme apprenne à faire ses révolutions en évitant les bains de sang et en prenant en compte l'unité de ce monde, la totalité de l'universel. Un jour ou l'autre l'humanité sera enfin sage et comprendra —s'il n'est pas trop tard— que le monde est une grande patrie et que l'humanité est une grande nation.

C'est par l'éducation et non par la guerre que le destin de l'humanité se rapprochera des idéaux de Liberté et d'Égalité. C'est par la solidarité que l'humanité atteindra la justice; ce n'est pas par la guerre qu'on atteint la Fraternité.

Se battre est un comportement d'enfant auquel l'humanité, vieille pourtant de quelques millénaires, n'échappe toujours pas. C'est la méchanceté, le fanatisme et l'égoïsme qui font combattre... sans s'abaisser au niveau de son ennemi.

L'endettement, le chômage, la criminalité, la drogue sont des problèmes qu'on ne résoudra définitivement que par la planification et la solidarité. Nous ne sommes plus au temps de Napoléon ou Hegel, la souffrance n'est plus nécessaire à la création car l'homme a déjà presque tout créé. Quand une guerre menace l'humanité tout entière, quelques individus n'ont pas le droit de la faire.

Hegel lui-même nie son propre principe en disant que la philosophie n'est valable que pour l'époque à laquelle elle est formulée. Les forces qui gouvernent le monde sont aveuglées par leur force et leur égoïsme. Dès lors qu'elles croient ne pas avoir à payer le prix de la destruction, rien ne parvient à les empêcher de faire la guerre. On sait déjà que, par conséquent, c'est l'augmentation des prix du pétrole et d'autres matières brutes qui financera cette guerre. Les pauvres de l'humanité payeront le prix de cette guerre comme celui de toutes les précédentes... A moins que la raison ne vaille!

Fayçal Akbaréigat

## EN BREF

**Assassinat.** Deux des principaux dirigeants de l'OLP, Salah Khalaf (Abou Iyad) et Hael Abdel Hamid (Abou al-Hol) ont été assassinés dans la nuit de lundi à mardi à Tunis. Un garde du corps de Salah Khalaf a également été tué dans l'attentat. Ils ont été enterrés jeudi en début d'après-midi au cimetière des martyrs d'Hamman Lîf, dans la banlieue sud de la capitale tunisienne. Ces obsèques n'ont pas pu avoir lieu à Amman, les corps ne pouvant être transférés en Jordanie.

**Iran.** Le président iranien Ali Akbar Hachémi-Rasfandjani, déclaré jeudi que «l'attaque des États-Unis et de leurs alliés contre l'Irak est une catastrophe historique. Nous sommes témoins de l'inquiétante présence américaine dans la région, de la destruction des sources énergétiques des musulmans et du meurtre de musulmans sur la base de sanctions internationales», a-t-il ajouté. Il est nécessaire que le cours horrible de ces événements soit corrigé et contrôlé.

**Attentats.** Six attentats ont été commis cette semaine contre des intérêts américains dans le monde après l'attaque lancée par la coalition anti-irakienne contre l'Irak. Ces attentats ont parfois causé des dégâts mais n'ont pas fait de victimes.

**Pacifistes.** Des manifestations contre la guerre dans le Golfe ont eu lieu jeudi dans plusieurs capitales européennes quelques heures après le déclenchement de l'opération «tempête du désert», pour la plupart organisées à l'appel de partis de gauche. En France, plus de 15.000 personnes ont manifesté contre la guerre à Paris, cependant que d'autres manifestations avaient lieu en province. Dans la capitale, des échauffourées ont opposé dans la soirée quelque 200 jeunes gens aux forces de l'ordre.

**Annulation.** Le Carnaval de Venise, qui devait commencer le 3 février prochain, a été annulé en raison de la situation internationale. Le Carnaval, qui durant une dizaine de jours transforme habituellement la «Perle de la Lagune» en un salon masqué de l'Europe entière, attirant des dizaines de milliers de touristes, aurait été incompatible avec la situation dramatique actuelle, souligne la ville de Venise. Le conseil municipal a néanmoins décidé de maintenir la cérémonie d'envol de colombes qui ouvre traditionnellement le Carnaval. Cet envol de colombes aura lieu, «comme un message de paix pour le monde entier», le dimanche 3 février.

**Pétrole.** L'Agence Internationale de l'Énergie (AIE) a décidé jeudi de déclencher son plan d'urgence destiné à faire face à un éventuel déficit de l'approvisionnement en brut afin de rassurer les marchés pétroliers. La mise en œuvre de ce plan signifie que les gouvernements devront dans les 15 prochains jours prendre des mesures pour relâcher 2 millions de barils-jour de leurs stocks. Des mesures de restriction de la demande doivent permettre de dégager 400.000 barils par jour supplémentaires, tandis que 100.000 barils par jour seront disponibles grâce au passage de la combustion au fuel à d'autres énergies et à une hausse des capacités de production.

**URSS.** Le Parlement soviétique a élu mardi à une large majorité Alexandre Bessmertnykh au poste de ministre des Affaires Étrangères, comme l'avait proposé le président Mikhail Gorbatchev. L'actuel ambassadeur soviétique aux États-Unis a été élu en remplacement d'Edouard Chevardnadze, démissionnaire, avec 421 voix pour, 3 contre et 10 abstentions. Par ailleurs, deux hauts conseillers économiques de Mikhail Gorbatchev ont démissionné, suite à l'accord du président soviétique à l'action militaire dans les pays Baltes.

**Norvège.** Le roi Olav V de Norvège est mort jeudi d'une crise cardiaque. Né en Angleterre le 2 juillet 1903, il était le fils unique du roi Haakon VII et de la princesse Maud de Grande Bretagne, elle-même fille du roi Edouard VII et petite fille de la Reine Victoria. Monté sur le trône en 1957 à la mort de son père, il était immensément populaire et considéré par les Norvégiens comme un véritable symbole de son pays.

**Colombie.** L'un des principaux «barons» de la drogue colombienne, Jorge Luis Ochoa Vásquez, considéré comme le numéro deux du Cartel de Medellín, s'est livré mardi à la justice. La reddition de Jorge Luis Ochoa, intervenant après celle de son frère, apparaît comme un succès important pour le président César Gaviria et semble confirmer le bien fondé de sa politique à l'égard des «narco» depuis son investiture le 7 août dernier.

**Approbation.** L'Assemblée nationale française a approuvé massivement mercredi par 523 voix, contre 43 et 2 abstentions la politique suivie par le président François Mitterrand dans la crise du Golfe et le recours à la force pour libérer le Koweït. Plusieurs députés socialistes, amis du ministre de la Défense Jean-Pierre Chevènement, hostiles à la guerre, ont voté contre la déclaration gouvernementale, s'attirant les foudres du Premier secrétaire du Parti Socialiste, Pierre Mauroy. Ce dernier a annoncé que des mesures seraient prises contre les députés de la majorité gouvernementale qui n'avaient pas respecté la discipline de vote.

## LA SEMAINE...

de Süleiman Sweiss

### Sang contre pétrole

George Bush a donc déclenché sa guerre offensive contre les peuples arabes et contre ceux du Tiers-Monde.

«Un nouveau monde sera établi» a-t-il précisé dans son discours de guerre, avant d'ajouter «nous voulons détruire le potentiel militaire irakien». La libération du Koweït ou la protection de l'Arabie Saoudite, objectifs officiellement chers aux cœurs de M. Bush et ses alliés, passent donc au second plan.

Le président américain a décidé de commencer la guerre, mais il n'est pas sûr qu'il sera de son ressort d'y mettre fin. Cette région du monde est habitée par des peuples, par des hommes, des femmes, des jeunes et des enfants qui rêvent depuis très très longtemps de vivre en paix et de profiter décemment des richesses de leurs pays —comme d'ailleurs tous les peuples du monde.

Les impérialistes —anciens et nouveaux— en ont décidé autrement, car le Proche-Orient est pour eux synonyme de pétrole. Ils ont créé toutes sortes de divisions dans cette région, y ont implanté un Etat raciste (Israël) et des régimes fantoches, particulièrement dans le Golfe. Au fil des années, les Occidentaux ont cru que les peuples de la région allaient avaler toutes ces machinations, sous prétextes d'un statu-quo légitime. Résultats: quatre grandes guerres, et voici la cinquième qui commence, sans oublier les centaines de petites ou moyennes batailles au cours des quarante dernières années. Malheureusement, l'histoire récente de cette région n'est qu'une histoire de guerres.

Chaque fois que les peuples arabes ont tenté de reconstruire leur vie sur des bases de liberté, de justice et de dignité, les impérialistes, les sionistes et leurs valets arabes étaient là pour faire avorter ces tentatives, celle du président défunt Gamal Abdel Nasser, entre autres.

Certes, on peut écraser le réveil des peuples deux, trois ou cinq fois, mais jamais on ne pourra écraser sa volonté définitivement.

Il est difficile de parler de cette guerre catastrophique alors qu'elle fait encore rage. Mais il semble qu'il est beaucoup plus facile, pour M. Bush, de déclencher une guerre terrible que de faire un lien entre la crise du Golfe et la question palestinienne.

La France a fait un sérieux effort quelques heures avant le début des hostilités. Son initiative a été sabotée par les dirigeants américains. Il n'est pas trop tard pour relancer les efforts diplomatiques, car la guerre risque de se prolonger plus longtemps que prévu.

La colère et la détermination des peuples arabes sont grandes. Il devient de plus en plus évident qu'ils n'ont que leurs chaînes à perdre.

La paix, que ce soit en Palestine ou dans le Golfe, n'est pas uniquement l'objectif des Arabes. Elle est aussi celui des peuples américains, britanniques et autres, dont de grands secteurs ont déjà manifesté contre la guerre avant même son déclenchement la semaine dernière.

Oui, «la guerre quelle connerie!», nous le disons avec le poète français Jacques Prévert. Mais que nous propose l'Occident comme alternative? «La paix des esclaves» dira-t-on. N'y a-t-il vraiment pas d'autre choix?

Encore une fois, nous, peuples arabes, nous le crions au milieu du feu et du sang: nous voulons la paix et la justice, et nous précisons: la justice avant même la paix. Nous l'avons répété mille fois, nous le répétons et nous le répéterons toujours. Peut-être avons-nous commis des erreurs pour mener notre combat, mais cela ne nous obligera jamais à capituler devant qui que ce soit.

Les peuples arabes et européens ont beaucoup d'intérêts communs. Nous avons contribué à la construction de la civilisation humaine à des époques différentes. L'Europe peut encore et toujours jouer un rôle positif non seulement en faveur d'elle-même ou en faveur du monde arabe, mais en faveur du nouveau monde qui se dessine en cette fin de siècle.

Rappeler ces vérités en ce moment de déraison, est-ce un rêve? Je ne le crois pas.



Refugiés. La Jordanie a décidé vendredi d'ouvrir sa frontière à toutes les personnes fuyant l'Irak et le Koweït, a annoncé le président du Haut Comité jordanien des Réfugiés, Salamé Hamad, qui estime que 750.000 personnes pourraient affluer dans le royaume. L'organisation humanitaire Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF France) avait indiqué lundi que face au risque de conflit dans le Golfe, elle participerait au plan d'assistance élaboré par les Nations Unies pour prendre en charge les réfugiés qui quitteraient les zones de combat. L'association humanitaire française précise qu'elle a déjà mis en place en Jordanie des équipes et du matériel nécessaire à l'accueil de 40.000 personnes.

Stockage. Le gouvernement français a interdit mercredi la vente en bidons des carburants, pour enrayer une fièvre de stockage qui s'est emparée des particuliers depuis quelques jours, par crainte de l'imminence d'un conflit dans le Golfe. «Depuis août déjà, les gens se sont mis à stocker et cela s'est accéléré ces derniers jours», a confirmé le patron d'un réseau de distribution, Edouard Leclerc, qui, en cinq mois, a vendu autant de jerricans qu'en trois ans. Enfin, le gouvernement avait fait appel à l'esprit civique et au sens des responsabilités des compagnies pétrolières, au cours d'une réunion avec les présidents de ces sociétés, afin d'éviter une flambée des prix de l'essence en cas de guerre.

Jean-Marc Bordes

## De la crise à la guerre

SEPTEMBRE

9: Unité au sommet Bush-Gorbatchev à Helsinki sur la crise du Golfe.

10: L'Irak et l'Iran annoncent la reprise de leurs relations diplomatiques.

14: Violation par des soldats irakiens de quatre résidences diplomatiques occidentales à Koweït. Trois Français sont enlevés. Le 15, Paris porte son dispositif militaire dans le Golfe à 13.000 hommes.

23: A l'ONU, le président français François Mitterrand préconise un plan pour la solution de l'ensemble des problèmes du Proche-Orient.

25: Le Conseil de Sécurité étend l'embargo à l'espace aérien.

OCTOBRE

11: Le dernier groupe de femmes et d'enfants occidentaux quitte Bagdad.

17: Plus de 200.000 soldats américains sont déployés dans le Golfe.

29: Le président Mikhail Gorbatchev estime inacceptable une solution militaire et avance l'idée d'une conférence inter-arabe. Libération des derniers otages français. Paris souligne qu'il s'agit d'une décision unilatérale de l'Irak.

NOVEMBRE

8: George Bush annonce l'envoi de 200.000 hommes en renfort.

16: George Bush se rend en Europe et au Proche-Orient où se déroulent les manœuvres américano-saoudiennes «Tonnerre imminente».

18: L'Irak annonce la libération de tous les otages entre le 25 décembre et le 25 mars 1991, si rien ne perturbe entretemps le «climat de paix».

19: Bagdad mobilise 250.000 soldats supplémentaires, ce qui doit porter à 700.000 hommes ses forces au Koweït et dans le sud de l'Irak.

26: Mikhail Gorbatchev invite l'Irak à «éviter le pire».

29: Le Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU autorise «des États membres qui coopèrent avec le gouvernement koweïtien à user de tous les moyens nécessaires pour contraindre l'Irak à quitter le Koweït, s'il ne l'a pas fait avant le 15 janvier 1991. Bagdad rejette aussitôt cet ultimatum.

30: George Bush invite l'Irak à des discussions directes de haut niveau pour «faire comprendre la détermination de la communauté internationale». Bagdad accepte l'offre mais une polémique sur la date des voyages de Tarek Aziz à Washington et de James Baker à Bagdad enlève le processus.

DECEMBRE

6: Saddam Hussein annonce la libération des 3.000 ressortissants étrangers encore retenus.

13: Rapprochement des derniers otages américains et de

l'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Koweït. La plupart des Occidentaux souhaitant quitter l'Irak et le Koweït sont sortis. Plusieurs centaines ont décidé de rester.

14: George Bush prêt à renoncer aux discussions si l'Irak reste inflexible.

15: Saddam Hussein affirme que la question palestinienne sera la plus importante dans tout dialogue avec Washington.

16: Départ de Koweït des deux derniers diplomates britanniques.

21: Exercice d'évacuation de plus d'un million d'habitants à Bagdad.

22: George Bush réaffirme que la force sera employée si l'Irak ne s'est pas retiré du Koweït le 15 janvier, Bagdad répondant être prêt à écraser tout agresseur.

24: Saddam Hussein affirme qu'Israël sera le premier objectif des forces irakiennes en cas de conflit. L'Irak a rappelé en consultation ses ambassadeurs à l'ONU, Washington, Moscou, Londres, Paris et Vienne.

31: L'armée irakienne dispose de 60 divisions (700.000 à 750.000 hommes) à la frontière de l'Arabie Saoudite, selon le président irakien.

## JANVIER

2: Michel Vauzelle, parlementaire français proche de F. Mitterrand, rencontre à Bagdad Tarek Aziz et Saddam Hussein.

3: George Bush propose une rencontre Aziz-Baker à Genève. Bagdad accepte l'offre pour le 9.

4: George Bush affirme qu'il ne peut y avoir de négociations à Genève et assure l'Irak qu'il ne sera pas attaqué s'il se retire totalement du Koweït. La CEE invite T. Aziz à Luxembourg, proposition rejetée par Bagdad.

8: Selon le Pentagone, 605.000 alliés font face à 540.000 Irakiens.

9: Echec des entretiens Baker-Aziz à Genève. M. Mitterrand souligne l'harmonie avec Washington mais affirme que Paris ouvrira jusqu'au bout pour une solution pacifique.

12: Le Congrès américain autorise une offensive contre l'Irak à l'expiration du délai fixé par l'ONU. George Bush annonce qu'un début de retrait massif permettrait d'éviter un conflit.

13: Echec des entretiens Perez de Cuellar-Saddam Hussein à Bagdad.

14: La France propose au Conseil de Sécurité un ultime appel de paix à l'Irak, rejeté par Washington.

15: Retrait du plan français et d'une contre proposition britannique; compromis sur un appel de Perez de Cuellar ne mentionnant pas la tenue d'une conférence. Le roi Fahd appelle Saddam Hussein à prendre «une décision courageuse» en annonçant le retrait immédiat du Koweït. Saddam Hussein affirme que l'Irak ne fera «aucune concession sur les droits de la nation arabe et de l'Irak». Expédition à minuit heure de New-York (7 heures, heure jordanienne) de l'ultimatum de l'ONU.

17: A 20h06, heure jordanienne, Washington annonce que «la libération du Koweït» a commencé à 2h, avec une attaque aérienne contre l'Irak.

Drogue en Jordanie

## La lutte contre les trafiquants

Faible pays de consommation (la population n'est touchée que dans une proportion de 3), la Jordanie est en revanche affectée par le transit sur son territoire de stupéfiants, produits et consommés aux abords de ses frontières. Pour lutter contre ce trafic, la Jordanie a mis en place en 1973 un organisme chargé de lutter contre la drogue et contre la fraude. Elle a aussi renforcé la sévérité de ses lois en matière de stupéfiants tout en offrant aux consommateurs le choix de se faire soigner plutôt que d'être sanctionnés par la justice. Ce nouveau combat contre la drogue en Jordanie a reçu le soutien d'un certain nombre de pays étrangers, parmi lesquels l'Allemagne et la France.

Père de quatre enfants, âgé de 35 ans, artisan et drogué à l'opium, M. X suit actuellement une cure de désintoxication à l'hôpital psychiatrique de Fuhais, dans le service de la toxicomanie. Cet hôpital se trouve à 15 km à l'ouest de la capitale jordanienne. L'usage répété de la drogue a conduit M. X à l'accoutumance. Il confie qu'il a commencé à goûter à l'opium à l'âge de 32 ans, alors qu'il était en voyage au Liban. Ses amis le poussaient alors à cette consommation particulière en lui assurant que l'opium stimule fortement les activités sexuelles. De son côté, il estimait alors que la drogue «pourrait éventuellement l'aider à trouver la sérénité et un certain équilibre psychique».

Ce n'est que trop tard qu'il comprit que l'abus des drogues (opium, hashish, héroïne, morphine), quelles que soient les façons de les prendre (ingestion ou injection) conduisait fatalement à la dépendance physique et intellectuelle. «C'est pourquoi, dit-il, j'ai voulu me faire soigner à tout prix». Mais les événements s'y présentaient mal. Lors d'un second séjour au Liban, il rapporte 200 gr d'opium pour ne pas être en manque pendant un mois ou deux. Et peu à peu le voyage devient une habitude insaisissable. Ces voyages lui coûtent cher en termes de fatigue, de frais de transport, et aboutissent finalement à l'endettement et à la crise conjugale, sa femme découvrant tout, un jour, par hasard. «Comme je ne pouvais plus aller au Liban pour me procurer de l'opium, raconte-t-il, j'ai commencé à chercher des personnes sur Amman capables de me dépanner. Et ce ne fut pas si difficile. La recherche n'a duré que quelques jours. J'ai trouvé quelqu'un qui vendait le gramme d'opium à 10 dinars. Et j'ai ainsi commencé à passer des soirées avec des amis, à fumer du hash, à mâcher de l'opium, à s'injecter de l'héroïne, chacun selon ses goûts qui devenaient peu à peu des besoins. A cette époque, j'étais vitrier et je gagnais bien ma vie. Aujourd'hui, je suis complètement ruiné. J'ai 32.000 dinars de dettes, tout mon entourage me rejette et me considère comme un marginal.»

Ayant atteint ce stade, il raconte qu'il se sentait perdu, sans valeur. Il a donc dû commencer à se faire soigner pour de bon. Sa belle-sœur fréquentait une femme docteur qui promit de l'aider. Il lui rendit visite et elle appela l'hôpital spécialisé de Fuhais pour qu'il y suive un traitement. «Sur le coup, se souvient M. X, j'ai cru qu'elle m'envoyait chez les fous. Je me suis dit que ce n'était pas ma place et que je n'irais pas. Mais cette femme a su me convaincre et me voici dans la section de la toxicomanie depuis trois semaines. Les premiers trois jours, j'ai voulu m'évader, car il faisait froid, j'avais faim, je n'aimais pas leur cuisine. Puis l'équipe médicale a commencé le traitement...»

A l'extérieur je crois que les gens sont partagés. Pour certains je suis malade et je mérite un traitement; pour d'autres je suis un bon à rien, un fou irrécupérable.

Je me sens faulx aujourd'hui d'avoir touché aux drogues. Je me sens à la fois coupable et déçu. J'ai envie de refaire ma vie pour de bon: la toxicomanie ne mène qu'à la maladie et à des relations sociales instables. Si je devais donner un conseil aux jeunes aujourd'hui, je leur dirais surtout: ne touchez jamais à tous ces poisons.

Le Dr Ehsan Rafat est président de l'hôpital psychiatrique de Fuhais. Il explique que beaucoup de drogués se font soigner dans son hôpital pour échapper à la justice. La loi jordanienne autorise en effet les toxicomanes à demander à être soignés avant de purger les peines prononcées par les tribunaux.

Le Dr Bahjat Abdalrahim, vice-président de l'hôpital, explique que la propagation de la drogue dépend de deux facteurs principaux qui sont l'offre sur le marché, d'une part, et la personnalité des gens qui peuvent les rendre demandeurs de ce genre de produits. Selon lui, les malades présents dans le service de son hôpital ne représentent que 5% des intoxiqués jordanien, les 95% restant étant introuvables ou ayant refusé de se faire soigner.

Sur les conseils de Sa Majesté le roi Hussein, un organisme contre la drogue et la fraude a été fondé en Jordanie en 1973. L'objectif essentiel de cet organisme est de poursuivre le marché de la drogue dans le royaume, et ses connexions avec l'étranger, mais aussi d'arrêter les fraudeurs et les faussaires ainsi que les fabricants de faux passeports.

Dans quel sens travaille cet organisme dans le domaine des stupéfiants? Izedine Zaza, haut responsable de cette institution, explique qu'elle a été créée dans le but d'empêcher la culture et la vente de toutes les sortes de drogues dans le royaume et de pourchasser les trafiquants, en collaboration avec les douanes et les services de police. Le service anti-drogue a ainsi mis la main sur un certain nombre de réseaux clandestins. Ils surveillent sévèrement les lieux de transit et de stockage des drogues.

Il faut noter d'ailleurs que la Jordanie est beaucoup plus un pays de transit qu'un lieu de consommation des stupéfiants. Les drogues viennent des pays producteurs (Liban, Turquie, principalement) et ne font la

plupart du temps que transiter par le royaume pour être consommées dans les pays du Golfe (l'Arabie Saoudite notamment) et en Egypte.

La Jordanie fait un effort considérable pour limiter l'offre de drogue sur le marché jordanien et pour dissuader la demande. Les organismes concernés n'hésitent pas à accueillir les drogués pour les soumettre à un traitement médical et psychique.

En 1988, la Jordanie a adopté une nouvelle loi sur «les drogues et ses effets mentaux», la plus récente dans ce domaine dans le royaume. Cette loi aggrave les peines pour les drogués et les trafiquants. La peine de mort est prévue pour toute personne fréquentant régulièrement les lieux de ventes de drogue, les membres de réseaux internationaux et ceux qui utilisent des mineurs pour augmenter leurs profits. Tous les profits sont d'ailleurs confisqués dès lors qu'il proviennent de la vente de drogue.

La loi encourage les personnes touchées à se déclarer d'elles-mêmes afin d'être soignées. Dans ce cas, elles ne sont ni arrêtées, ni jugées. Les personnes qui achètent, vendent ou fabriquent des stupéfiants sont passibles d'une peine minimale de trois mois de prison et d'une amende de 3.000 dinars au moins.

Une peine de 15 ans de réclusion avec sursis et une amende de 10.000 dinars sont appliquées à tout importateur ou personne qui cultive de la drogue. Et si le trafiquant est fonctionnaire ou employé dans les services des stupéfiants, il est condamné à mort.

Les personnes qui offrent de la drogue ou aident à s'en procurer sont passibles de peines de 10 ans de prison minimum et doivent payer une amende allant de 10.000 à 15.000 dinars. Cette peine est également appliquée aux personnes autorisées à détenir des drogues pour raisons médicales et qui les utilisent à d'autres fins.

Les médecins et les pharmaciens qui donnent ou délivrent une ordonnance médicale contenant des matières anesthésiantes pour des motifs non strictement médicaux sont condamnés à deux ans de prison au moins et à une amende de 5.000 dinars dans le meilleur des cas.

Le tribunal de grande instance a le droit d'appliquer les mesures qui lui paraissent les plus adéquates au cas qui leur est soumis: ou bien placer le toxicomane en prison ou bien le confier au service de toxicomanie de l'hôpital psychiatrique. Tout dépend finalement de l'avis de l'assistante sociale et du psychiatre.

Durant la phase de traitement, l'identité des personnes soignées est maintenue dans le plus grand secret sous peine d'un an de prison et d'une amende de 500 dinars au moins pour les membres du personnel de l'hôpital qui auraient trahi ce secret.

L'organisme de lutte contre la drogue que préside M. Izedine Zaza, considère la prévention comme un problème national, touchant à la sécurité du pays.

Les traditions, la religion et les valeurs sociales sont largement invoquées pour limiter la propagation de la drogue. Les établissements culturels et éducatifs jouent aussi un rôle déterminant dans ce domaine.

La Jordanie, n'est pas considérée au vu des statistiques



Les petites quantités transitent entre les mains de passeurs, habitués aux routes secrètes du désert.

mondiales comme un pays grand consommateur de drogue. La proportion de drogués ne dépasse pas les 3.

La Jordanie consacre en tout 5 millions de dinars à la lutte contre le trafic de drogue, mais le fait que 70% du territoire soit constitué de désert ne facilite pas la surveillance. Les plus grosses quantités transitent souvent dans les réservoirs d'essence des camions qui traversent le pays, mais une multitude de petites quantités passent les frontières à dos d'ânes ou entre les mains de passeurs professionnels, habitués aux routes clandestines du désert.

Pour améliorer leur efficacité,

Osama Al-Qudah

### Les chiffres de la drogue en Jordanie

L'augmentation des prix et celle des saisies des différentes drogues sur le marché jordanien montrent que le trafic tend actuellement à se développer.

**PRIX:** Aujourd'hui, le kilo de Hashish se vend à 500 dinars et celui d'héroïne à 30.000 dinars. Le prix du Hashish est multiplié par dix entre son entrée en Jordanie et son exportation vers d'autres pays.

**SAISIES:** La plus grosse saisie d'héroïne en Jordanie (19 kg, en provenance du Liban) date de 1990. La plus grosse saisie de Hashish (1.500 kg à Aqaba) date de 1986. La plus grosse saisie d'opium (26 kg) date de 1987. Globalement, 5.670 kg de Hashish ont été saisis en 1990 contre 445 kg en 1980.

**ARRESTATIONS:** De 120 arrestations pour trafic ou consommation de stupéfiants en Jordanie en 1980, on est passé à 342 arrestations en 1990 dont un tiers concernent des étrangers de passage dans le royaume. Il est à noter d'ailleurs que la plupart des consommateurs de drogue en Jordanie sont des étrangers ou des Jordaniens ayant séjourné (pour des études le plus souvent) hors du royaume.

**PROCES:** De 35 procès pour trafic ou consommation de stupéfiants en Jordanie en 1980, on est passé à 135 procès en 1990.

## A L'AFFICHE

Documentaires

### L'eau des autres

«L'eau: c'est la vie» est le thème d'une exposition sur un sujet qui nous concerne tous, plus que jamais cette année en Jordanie, pays aride, comme le reste du Proche-Orient, par la sécheresse.

Ce projet —présenté au Centre Culturel Français jusqu'à la fin du mois— souligne à travers 18 panneaux le rôle que joue le cycle de l'eau dans notre vie quotidienne. Il nous expose aussi quelques conclusions sur les problèmes de l'eau, auxquelles sont arrivés les hydrologues travaillant pour les organes du Conseil Economique et Social des Nations Unies. Rappelons qu'en 1980, le Secrétaire Général a baptisé les années quatre-vingt de «décennie internationale de l'eau potable et de l'assainissement». Le double objectif était, à la fin de cette période, l'accès pour tous à l'eau potable et en deuxième lieu de les pourvoir de systèmes d'hygiène suffisants —pour les défendre notamment contre les maladies.

Y sont-ils parvenus? Les savants en doutent. D'après cette exposition de textes et de photos —travail réalisé par la cité des sciences et de l'industrie de La Villette, Paris— un grand nombre de leurs projets ont échoué. Ils avouent qu'ils ont beaucoup à se reprocher, et en premier lieu d'avoir manifesté une foi aveugle dans les miracles de la technologie, sans tenir compte des aspects sociaux, économiques, culturels des conditions régionales auxquelles il aurait fallu les adapter, expliquent-ils.

Informative, l'exposition met en valeur par des textes simples —débarassés du jargon scientifique— l'importance de l'eau, sa provenance, ses sources, les méthodes pour la puiser, mais aussi les problèmes attachés à sa distribution, son aménagement et ses dangers —conséquences complexes de désastres naturels (sécheresses) et d'imprudences (emploi irresponsable de l'eau stagnante). Quatre-vingts pourcent des maladies, nous explique ce panneau, doivent être attribuées à l'utilisation d'eaux crues et décomposées.

D'autre part, il manque des photos expressives, de qualité surprenante, capables d'accrocher l'œil en éveillant la curiosité du spectateur et l'attirant vers les panneaux. La plupart sont des photos factuelles (lacs, puits, terres craquelées) sans la qualité engageante qu'un bon photo-journaliste peut livrer. Une exception: celle d'Alain Finoges et sa photo d'une petite Africaine se lavant sous une pompe à main avec une joie éclatante. Le panneau intitulé Niveau d'eau, niveau de vie, révèle des faits choquants. Il nous annonce qu'il devrait y avoir assez d'eau pour les cinq milliards d'habitants de la Terre. Pourtant, 1,8 milliard d'êtres humains n'ont pas accès à l'eau potable et plus de 2,4 milliards vivent sans accès à des systèmes sanitaires. Conjugée avec le texte qui met l'accent sur l'inégalité de la distribution de l'eau dans le monde, la photo de Finoges témoigne aussi du caractère précieux de l'eau pour ceux qui en sont privés. Remarquons que, par contraste avec un Nord-Américain qui consomme 200 litres d'eau par jour et un Européen 150 litres, l'Africain n'a accès qu'à 15 litres. Quand on note que l'individu moyen a besoin de 40 litres par jour, la photo de la petite africaine se baignant renforce notre conscience du caractère primordial de l'eau.

On devrait se rappeler un peu du fait que les savants des Nations Unies ont conclu qu'en négligeant l'aspect régional de leurs projets, ils se sont heurtés à des difficultés de réalisation.

Ironiquement, les organisateurs de cette exposition ont commis la même erreur. Ils n'ont pas su profiter des conclusions des hydrologues pour nous présenter ces faits vécus d'une manière assez convaincante pour nous obliger à faire attention à ces documents.

Le développement d'une thématique régionale aurait provoqué un intérêt plus vif. La grande faiblesse de l'exposition est qu'elle ne traite pas de la Jordanie, ni même du Moyen-Orient. On aurait souhaité une exposition plus proche du pays ou de la région, adaptant le sujet aux réalités locales. Or, la tendance est de présenter le problème de l'eau dans un contexte généralisé, universel, alors que la majorité des panneaux traite en fait du Tiers-Monde. Sans cette précision, ces informations vitales sont difficiles à retenir. L'éclairage généralisé n'aide pas à la concentration: au contraire, il ne fait qu'aplatir l'ambiance et rendre l'exposition un peu assommante.

Sami Kamal

DIVERS

Documentaire. Le CCF propose cette semaine un documentaire vidéo sur «La Terre, planète fragile», dans le cadre d'un cycle de reportages scientifiques sur la géographie terrestre. Centre Culturel Français, le samedi 26 janvier à 16h ou sur demande.

EXPOSITIONS

Eau. Exposition intitulée «L'eau c'est la vie» réalisée par la cité des sciences et de l'industrie de la Villette, près de Paris. L'eau est notre capital: vie, sa masse totale sur Terre ne varie pas et pourtant nous sommes plus de cinq milliards à la partager, de façon très inégale il est vrai. Cette exposition abondamment illustrée nous amènera à réfléchir aux grandes questions que l'Homme se pose face à ce bien si précieux, source de vie et enjeu de survie. Voir FOCUS. Centre Culturel Français, jusqu'à la fin du mois.

Forum des Jeunes Arabes

## Association d'intelligences

Nombreux sont les centres et les associations qui s'occupent des jeunes en Jordanie. Ce qui distingue le Forum des Jeunes Arabes, c'est qu'il insiste sur tous les aspects de la vie des jeunes et non sur un aspect spécifique comme le font les autres.

Le Forum a été créé le 5 août 1988 en Jordanie dans l'espoir de se développer pour diffuser ses principes dans le monde arabe. De fait, parmi ses 2.000 membres —un chiffre encourageant étant donné sa jeunesse— on trouve déjà plusieurs jeunes venant de différents pays arabes. Le Forum s'est épanoui sous les orientations du Prince Hassan, président honoraire du Forum.

Deux événements, l'un passé et l'autre présent, guident la marche du Forum: La grande révolte arabe d'une part, et la démocratisation qui caractérise cette période de la vie du pays d'autre part.

Majed al-Majali, directeur du siège du Forum à Amman, tient à être clair sur ce point: «Le Forum n'est ni un parti politique ni une institution gouvernementale, dit-il. Il accueille d'ailleurs des gens de tendances politiques très variées. Il ne tient aucun compte de l'appartenance religieuse de ceux qui souhaitent y adhérer et accepte la divergence de vues, les différentes pensées et principes. Il s'efforce de les respecter et de trouver la voie commune qui permet de travailler sur une base politiquement neutre.» C'est pour cette raison que la devise du Forum se veut universelle: «La Terre et l'Homme».

Les objectifs du Forum sont à la fois simples et ambitieux. Il vise à constituer un groupe de jeunes soucieux de leur environnement et des problèmes arabes, régionaux et nationaux. Il recherche l'union des jeunes arabes et travaille pour qu'ils puissent dialoguer objectivement des questions intellectuelles, politiques, culturelles qui les touchent.

Il encourage les recherches, les études et la communication entre les jeunes et les autorités. Il organise des camps et des voyages culturels et scientifiques: une délégation de jeunes est partie récemment en Tunisie et une autre est allée au Maroc pour échanger des idées et pour discuter de la possibilité de fonder des «Forums» identiques dans les autres pays du monde

arabe.

Le Forum participe aux travaux bénévoles et organise stages, réunions et séminaires pour une meilleure compréhension du passé, du présent et une meilleure conduite pour l'avenir.

Au niveau local, le Forum possède des branches dans la plupart des villes et villages jordaniens (Irbid, Madraja, Ramtha, Salt, Kerak et Aqaba, entre autres). Il a des bureaux dans les Universités afin d'expliquer aux gens les objectifs et les expériences du Forum.

On note que la participation des femmes à cette association est relativement limitée, pour des raisons liées à la culture et aux coutumes sociales, mais les choses changent progressivement.

Le Forum ne reçoit aucune subvention du gouvernement ou d'organisations internationales. Ses ressources financières viennent des frais d'adhésion (3 dinars), des donations, des contributions, des profits des investissements, des revenus des publications et de bien d'autres sources acceptées par le conseil d'administration. Tout cela dans le but de s'assurer indépendance et autonomie. Il travaille cependant avec d'autres associations nationales et internationales en vue d'une coopération positive.

Quant à son attitude à l'égard de la crise du Golfe, et mises à part les conférences sur le sujet qu'il a organisées, le Forum a édité une brochure dans laquelle il exprime son soutien aux mesures prises par le roi Hussein pour trouver une solution pacifique à la crise. Il y est dit que les Arabes sont capables de résoudre leurs problèmes eux-mêmes, la politique des Etats-Unis au Moyen-Orient y est condamnée et il comprend une mise en garde pressante contre les conséquences néfastes d'une guerre dans la région. Le Forum affirme enfin la détermination et la capacité des jeunes Jordaniens à faire face aux dangers qui les menacent, coûte que coûte et sans hésitation.

Inas Nammari

## TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

18h00 - «Des chiffres et des lettres». Jeu.  
18h30 - «L'école des fans». Des enfants interprètent le répertoire d'un chanteur célèbre.  
19h00 - Le Journal.  
19h15 - «Faut pas rêver». Documentaire.

LUNDI

18h00 - La Camorra. Série policière.  
19h00 - Le Journal.  
19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

18h00 - «Les ratons lèveurs», dessin animé.  
18h30 - «Fusion». Magazine documentaire.  
19h00 - Le Journal.  
19h15 - «Aujourd'hui en Jordanie». Magazine local préparé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18h00 - «Thalassa». Le magazine de la mer.  
18h30 - «Sixième gauche». Quatrième épisode d'une série de 50 qui raconte la cohabitation, dans le même immeuble, d'une famille française et d'une famille franco-française. Loin du misérabilisme, l'objectif des réalisateurs de cette série est de traiter avec humour de ce thème rarement porté à l'écran sous forme de fiction.  
19h00 - Le Journal.  
19h15 - «Carnet de notes». Extraits de musique classique.

JEUDI

18h00 - «Society». Dessin animé.  
18h30 - «Splendeur sauvage». Documentaire sur la vie des animaux.  
19h00 - Le Journal.  
19h15 - Reportage sur les «gamelles de Bombay», en Inde.

VENREDI

18h00 - «Pour tout l'or du Transvaal». Quatrième épisode d'une série documentaire en six parties consacrée à la lutte qui oppose les soldats britanniques aux fermiers hollandais en défilé de ce siècle en Afrique australe.  
19h00 - Le Journal.  
19h15 - «Georges Perce: la vie mode-emploi». Documentaire.

SAMEDI

18h00 - «Quand la science mène l'enquête». Documentaire scientifique.  
19h00 - Le Journal.  
19h15 - «Carnet de notes». Extraits de musique classique.

## CINEMA

Bird. Film de Clint Eastwood, sorti en 1988, racontant la vie du grand musicien de Jazz, Charlie Parker. Le film montre comment un large éventail de personnages gravitent autour du Jazz (danseurs et musiciens, propriétaires de clubs et gangsters) ont participé à la révolution dévorante de ce courant musical. Centre Culturel Français le jeudi 24 à 19h.

La passerelle. Film de Jean-Claude Sussfeld, avec Pierre Arditi, sorti en 1988. Deux êtres que tout sépare a priori vont pourtant se rencontrer à l'occasion d'un véritable drame. Centre Culturel Français, le lundi 21 janvier à 20h.



Les plus grosses quantités de drogue transitent dans les réservoirs d'essence des camions.

## Jordanian dinar weathers turbulence in the Gulf

P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian dinar is holding steady against the sweeping tide of developments in the Gulf and economic analysts do not expect any significant shift in the course in the short-term since the war has not added any negative element to the Kingdom's economy which was already hit bad by the five-month-old crisis.

The official rate set by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) remained at the level of 663/667 fils to the American dollar Saturday. In the so-called "parallel" (black) market, the greenback was traded in the range of 700 fils to 710 fils — very little change from the rate that prevailed Monday, four days before the American-led multinational forces unleashed war on Iraq.

Dr. Jawad Al Anani and Dr. Fahed Fanek, two of the most prominent Jordanian economic analysts, are unanimous that the dinar's steady course is only natural given the fact that the military conflagration has not brought in any new burden — in pure economic terms — to Jordan.

"Our imports are low, exports are more or less the same and our foreign exchange reserves are relatively healthy," said Dr. Anani, a former minister of trade and industry. "In real terms very little has changed in these areas since the war started," he pointed out.

Dr. Fanek, a noted columnist and head of an auditor's firm, pointed out that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait seriously damaged the Kingdom's economy by depriving it of Arab financial aid, expatriate remittances, trade with both Iraq and Kuwait, and transit charges on cargo bound for Iraq as well as tourism revenue.

Figures released by the Finance Ministry on July 27, five days before the invasion of

Kuwait, indicated on economy taking slow but firm steps towards eventual recovery from the strains imposed by a foreign debt of \$8.3 billion.

"The economy has been absorbing one impact after another in the past five and a half months since the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait," Dr. Fanek noted. "The blow had already been dealt to Jordan before the first bombs fell on Baghdad Thursday, and in economic terms nothing has changed as far as Jordan is concerned," he said.

Both Dr. Anani and Dr. Fanek referred to Jordan's gross foreign exchange reserves, which has been boosted to around \$700 million with the receipt of part of the international assistance it has been promised as compensation for its adherence to the economic sanctions against Iraq, the Kingdom's main trading partner until the Aug. 2 invasion. It is estimated that Jordan lost around \$1.1 billion in "visibles" during the year 1990 as a result of the Gulf crisis, and is projected to sustain a loss of \$2.5 million in 1991. These figures are certified as accurate by U.N. agencies and independent sources.

No definite figures are available yet on the amount of cash the Kingdom actually received as part of the \$250 million it has been pledged as compensation by Japan, Germany, Canada, France, Italy, and the Netherlands. The pledges are in the form of untied and tied commodity loans on soft terms as well as outright grants.

"It is only natural that the dinar is holding steady," commented Dr. Anani. "Jordan's imports are at a minimum and its exports have not been seriously affected by the war any more than the crisis itself. In effect, the war has not added any new negative element to the Jordanian economy."

Furthermore, Dr. Fanek noted that the commercial

banks were meeting the foreign exchange needs of the market without having to draw from the central bank's reserves. "There are also many Jordanians coming home, bringing in foreign exchange with them," he pointed out.

If anything, Dr. Fanek said he expected international assistance to Jordan during 1991 to exceed its losses in the form of Arab financial assistance.

In the meantime, the Iraqi dinar has hit an all-time low of 100 Jordanian fils each in the open market in the wake of the war. The Iraqi currency, which Baghdad has declared as the only legal tender in Kuwait after annexing the emirate as its 19th province, was being traded at around 135 fils on Jan. 12, three days before the expiry of U.N. deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait or face war.

The Iraqi dinar was valued at around 180 fils prior to the invasion of Kuwait. It declined gradually to around 160 fils by end of December and plunged in the run-up to the Jan. 15 deadline. (The official rate for the dinar set by the Baghdad government is almost 20 times higher).

"The main demand for Iraqi dinars used to come from travellers to Iraq," Dr. Fanek pointed out. "With the eruption of the war, there is no travel and thus no demand for the currency, and this would partly account for the drop in value," he said.

Sources familiar with the black market said the Iraqi currency was being bought on Saturday for 110 fils, while some banks offered 100 fils. Other banks have totally suspended all dealings in the Iraqi currency.

"There are many in the market who are buying and stockpiling Iraqi dinars with hope that the currency would regain its value no matter which way the war goes," said one of the sources.

## Eastern shuts down after 62 years

MIAMI (R) — Eastern Airlines grounded all its planes after two years of struggling with bankruptcy proceedings, bitter labour disputes and questions about its safety practices.

The Miami-based airline, the eighth-largest U.S. carrier and a major operator to the sunny resorts of the Caribbean, stopped flying at midnight Friday.

The airline, formed in 1928, is the largest casualty so far of U.S. price deregulation which began in the late 1970s.

Eastern lost an estimated \$600 million in 1990.

Recent efforts to reverse its fortunes were hampered by the North American recession and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which drove fuel prices sharply higher.

Eastern employs 18,000 people worldwide, 7,000 of them in Miami. Employees at Miami International Airport left their jobs Friday night, many in tears and carrying boxes of personal possessions.

"This has been some kind of ride. I just wish I was somewhere else right now," said one Eastern manager who has worked for the airline for more than a dozen years.

Analysts estimate that U.S. airlines lost \$2 billion in 1990, more than twice their previous largest annual loss, due to stiff competition and rising costs.

In the past two months, Pan American World Airways and Continental Airlines have filed for bankruptcy-court protection. But Eastern had fared worse than most of its rivals. Dogged by questions about its safety measures, the carrier filled only 51 per cent of its passenger seats

in December, compared with an industry average of 59 per cent.

Eastern's difficulties began in March 1989, when its mechanics went on strike and declared war on the airline's then chief executive Frank Lorenzo.

They were joined by Eastern's pilots and flight attendants in one of the most bitter labour disputes in airline industry history.

Soon after the strike began, Eastern sought protection from its creditors under the U.S. bankruptcy code.

The judge overseeing the bankruptcy proceedings acceded last April to the unions' demand that Lorenzo be removed, and a trustee appointed in his place.

But by then the deteriorating economic climate hampered the carrier's recovery. Eastern was dealt another blow last summer, when a grand jury investigation raised questions about its aircraft maintenance and safety records.

Some analysts said the airline may still try to survive. Eastern trustee Martin Shugrue, a pilot and former senior executive at Pan Am, said this week that Eastern was trying to attract a partner or investor.

"We have scoured the industry for purchasers and partners," Shugrue said, adding that Eastern was holding talks with two airlines.

He declined to identify them, but industry sources speculate they may be British Airways and United Airlines. Eastern, owned by continental Airlines Holdings Inc., said Friday it was not planning to sell its assets immediately.

## New Gorbachev team excludes top liberals

MOSCOW (R) — Seven top liberal advisers have been excluded from the new team to run the Soviet Union alongside President Mikhail Gorbachev, Interfax agency said Saturday.

They included key figures of his perestroika reform.

The independent agency, which has good contacts among liberals who once had Gorbachev's ear, said among the seven were Alexander Yakovlev, regarded as the "father of glasnost," and deputy prime minister Leonid Abalkin.

Also going was Yevgeny Primakov, a Middle East expert who carried out several missions to Washington and Baghdad in the past month, Interfax said.

Two of the seven — top economic advisers Stanislav Shatalin and Nikolai Petrakov — had already said they were quitting Gorbachev's team because of the slow pace of progress towards establishing a market system.

The remaining two now out under a total reshuffle of the Soviet executive which takes place as hardline communists seem increasingly on the offensive were foreign trade chief and deputy premier Stepan Sitaryan and science adviser Yuri Osipyan, according to Interfax.

The agency said Yakovlev, once seen as Gorbachev's closest aide, Primakov and Osipyan were excluded "from the higher organs state power" because of the abolition of the short-lived presidential council, of which they were members.

Abalkin, a liberal economist who had appeared increasingly uncomfortable since he joined the government in 1989 to head a special unit driving economic reform, and Sitaryan were going "in connection with the reorganisation of the government."

## Japan unworried war will lead to oil shortages

TOKYO (R) — The Gulf war is unlikely to cause oil shortages in Japan, which imports almost all its crude, because of its ample

stocks and prospects the conflict will be short-lived, government and industry officials say.

"There are no fears at all of shortages," an official at the oil planning division of the ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)'s energy agency said Friday.

An official at the agency's oil distribution division said Friday that domestic oil prices had so far remained stable.

The government's Economic Planning Agency (EPA) will work in cooperation with other ministries to prevent any speculative rises in oil and other product prices due to the war, EPA Director General Michio Ochi told reporters Friday.

He added that he saw no immediate concern that Japan's overall price stability would be endangered by the war.

MITI has already told Japanese oil and trading companies to limit their buying of oil on spot markets to help avoid hoarding and speculative price rises, and to use stocks instead, Ochi said. Oil prices had so far shown movements contrary to many analysts' predictions, he added.

MITI has allowed private oil companies to reduce required reserves of oil and oil products to a combined 78 days of consumption by the end of February from the current 82.

Oil stocks on Nov. 30, the latest date for which MITI data are available, stood at 520 million barrels, equivalent to 142 days of consumption in product terms. These comprised private stocks of 88 days and government stocks of 54 days.

"We should remain calm as it's unlikely the war will be long-term," Kazushige Nagashima, president of Kyodo Oil Company Limited, said in a statement Thursday.

MITI Minister Eiichi Nakao told reporters Thursday: "Japan has oil reserves equivalent to 142 days, and I believe that as long as we use these oil stocks in coordination with other countries, there will be no serious supply shortage."

However, he added, a prolonged Gulf war could hurt Japan, which depends for virtually all its oil on imports, most of which comes from the Gulf. Kentaro Iwamoto, president of Nippon Oil Company, said Thursday that even if crude oil shipments in the Gulf were stopped completely, there would be no immediate impact on the economy and on living standards.

## U.S. economic fate hangs on Gulf war

WASHINGTON (R) — The fate of the U.S. economy hangs on the outcome of the Gulf war, with a quick victory likely to boost consumer confidence and shorten the recession plaguing the country, economists have said.

A quick resolution to the conflict would bring oil prices down and help restore consumer purchasing power and confidence in the economic outlook, said Cynthia Latta, senior economist with DRI/McGraw Hill.

Increased government spending to replace military equipment lost in the war will also help give the economy a boost, she said.

"All we really need to bring us out of recession is a rebound in consumer confidence," she noted.

A prolonged war would extend the duration of the recession that most economists said began in October. Not only would it keep oil prices high and consumer confidence low, but also would hurt U.S. exports.

"A sustained war would hurt European economies more than the U.S. economy and we need those economies growing to support demand for U.S. exports," said Mickey Levy, chief economist for CRT Government Securities.

But if consumer buying stabilises after falling sharply in the fourth quarter of 1990, it will be enough to help swing the economy around, he said.

The U.S. economy had already been showing signs of weakness even before the Iraqi invasion. High world interest rates and tight credit conditions were slowing economic growth.

Federal Reserve Governor Sager said a quick resolution of the war should help the economy but "it is not going to solve all of our problems."

"We won't be out of the woods, but there'll be a few less trees," said Robert Hormats, vice chairman of Goldman Sachs International.

A quick victory, with little or no damage to Saudi oil facilities, would help lower U.S. inflation and interest rates. That would help restore sagging consumer confidence, leading to more spending and spurring economic growth.

"It would be a significant shot in the arm for the economy," Hormats said.

But David Jones of Aubrey G. Lanston and Co cautioned that America's other economic problems, particularly its battered banking industry, would act as a drag on the economy for some time.

"We'll still have a significant period of retrenchment," Jones said.

Banks have turned stingy in extending loans after being forced to write off billions of dollars of credits because of the slumping property prices throughout much of the country.

"We've got problems quite apart from this war situation," Senate Banking Committee Chairman Donald Riegle told NBC news shortly after the attack on Iraq and Kuwait began.

President George Bush's chief economic adviser agreed.

"When the Gulf crisis is resolved, oil prices will fall significantly in my opinion, removing a major drag on the economy," Michael Boskin, chairman of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, said before the attack. "This is not the only problem the economy has or will have. But it is a major one."

"Even before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the economy was growing sluggishly because of

high world interest rates (and) fairly tight credit conditions," he added.

Boskin said the economy shrank significantly in the closing months of last year, adding the downturn could continue until the middle of year before a turn-around occurred.

But the worst of all possible worlds would be a protracted conflict in the Gulf that kept world oil prices and interest rates high, analysts said. Many economists believe the U.S. economy shrank at about a three per cent annual rate in the last three months of 1990.

That would deepen the recession in the United States, sapping consumer and corporate confidence. Economists said that each \$5 a barrel rise in the oil prices shaves about a half percentage point from U.S. economic growth.

"If this war effort terminates quickly it will be a positive development," said Riegle, a Michigan Democrat. "If it stretches out it does come at a bad time and we shouldn't fool ourselves about that."

In the past, wars have acted as a spur to the economy by boosting defence spending. But this time the United States is unlikely to go on a defence spending spree, analysts said.

The end of the cold war with the Soviet Union and the huge U.S. budget deficit probably meant Washington would elect not to replace much of the equipment lost in the Gulf war.

But the wild card in the equation is still the price of oil. As long as markets are convinced that the chances of damage to Saudi oil terminals are limited, a steep price rise that would harm the world economy can be avoided, analysts said.

But if that changes, all bets would be off.

## OPEC nations unlikely to reduce oil production

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — OPEC has yet to react to the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf. But while oil prices have dropped sharply, analysts predicted Friday the group is unlikely to curb its gushing output soon.

"I don't think anybody is going to cut back until they are certain about what's going on," said Peter Bogin, associate director of oil markets at Cambridge Energy Research Associates in Paris.

"They have their eyes pointed to the Middle East and that's all they are doing," said Pierre Ter-

zaan, editor of the Paris-based newsletter Petrostrategies.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said nothing when Iraq invaded fellow group member Kuwait. It has remained silent since U.S. and allied forces began attacking Iraq before dawn Thursday.

There also have been no hints that the oil ministers of the 13 OPEC nations will gather soon to assess the turmoil in the markets.

After Thursday's outbreak of war in the Gulf, the price for light sweet crude tumbled a record \$10.56 a barrel to end the day at \$21.44 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That was less than its price on Aug. 1, the day before Iraq seized Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia's former oil minister, Ahmad Zaki Yamani, cautioned that crude prices could plunge to \$12 a barrel if oil production remained high and demand sluggish. He told the British Broadcasting Corp. that was a possible scenario unless OPEC managed to deal correctly with the situation.

At a winter conference last month, OPEC ministers said they would meet again in March to review the oil situation, although they could gather sooner if necessary.

They also agreed to continue pumping as much oil as possible during the crisis. Last August, they suspended their production caps to make up for the loss of four million barrels of Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude, which was pulled off the market by an international embargo on trade with Iraq.

## Yugoslav government moves to tighten control on banking

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav government asked parliament Friday to pass new laws tightening central control of banking after a financial scandal, Tanjug News Agency said.

The legal changes would force the main banks in Yugoslavia's six republics and two provinces to make payments through a single account with the National Bank of Yugoslavia (NBV), the country's central bank.

The republics have previously been able to make payments through separate accounts with their own republican banks.

Tanjug gave no other details but the proposal was clearly designed to reduce the lending

powers of banks in the republics after a financial crisis precipitated by Serbia, the biggest republic.

Serbia broke lending laws last month by taking an 18.5 billion dinar (\$1.5 billion) loan from the Serbian National Bank without the NBV's permission. It used up half the new money intended for credit expansion in 1991.

The Yugoslav government accused Serbia of undermining the country's monetary system.

The government has been trying to increase its powers in the economy but the republics have repeatedly blocked its efforts to increase central controls.

## Brazilian industrial output falls

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's industrial output fell 9.2 per cent in the first 11 months of 1990 compared with a year earlier, the government census bureau has said.

Production in November alone was down 9.1 per cent from a year before, said the bureau, which also measures inflation and economic growth.

The hardest hit was the naval construction industry, which showed a decline of 11 per cent in the first 11 months, the bureau said.

Industrial performance this year is expected to be the worst since a 10 per cent decline in 1981, when Brazil entered a three-year recession.

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Noor Al Sharif/Mahmoud Yassin/Shahira/Safiyah Omari  
In **Night and Traitors** (Arabic)  
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.  
Friday & Sunday cine show at 11:00 a.m.

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**RAINBOW**  
**HONEY I SHRUNK THE KIDS**  
Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144  
**PHILADELPHIA**  
**HER ALIBI**  
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.

Cinema Tel: 699238  
**PLAZA**  
**KARIM ABU SHAQRA and AL AMIRA AL SAGHIRA**  
in **SHAME ON YOU, RUSTUM** Arabic  
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## Worldwide anti-war protests continue

LONDON (Agencies) — Thousands of people staged demonstrations in Australia, Europe and America in the latest wave of worldwide protests against the Gulf war.

Sydney police said at least 10,000 protesters, chanting "no blood for oil" and "bring the frigates home," marched on the U.S. and Israeli consulates Saturday.

Similar marches were staged in Canberra, Adelaide, Brisbane and Hobart in what organisers said were Australia's biggest peace marches since the Vietnam War.

Australia has sent two frigates and a supply ship to the Gulf. Police helicopters hovered over Rome Saturday morning as thousands of young demonstrators covered on the central Piazza Venezia in the latest of a series of demonstrations throughout Italy since the outbreak of hostilities.

"Maybe we're the mad ones because we want peace," said one banner. "We are all deserters," said another.

Dutch anti-war demonstrators clashed with police in central Amsterdam Friday night when officers on horseback moved to clear about 500 people blocking one of the city's main road junctions.

One policeman and one demonstrator were slightly injured in the fighting and a 26-year-old man was arrested, police said.

Earlier, 2,000 people shouting anti-American slogans marched from the central Dam Square to the U.S. consulate to protest against the war in the Gulf.

The Netherlands has placed its two frigates in the Gulf under U.S. command and has also contributed ammunition and anti-aircraft missiles to the U.S.-led alliance of Western and Arab states ranged against Iraq.

### 2 million protest in Spain

In Spain, more than two million people stopped work and thousands of schoolchildren and

students joined demonstrations against Spanish involvement in the Gulf war Friday.

Unions said workers throughout Spain heeded their call for a two-hour stoppage to support calls for an end to hostilities and the recall of three Spanish warships helping enforce the U.N. embargo on Iraq.

The government, responsible for Spain's first involvement in a foreign war since a campaign in Morocco in the 1920s, won endorsement from the congress — the Lower House of parliament — Friday for a resolution calling on Iraq to implement Security Council resolutions.

"The government is allowing a divide to develop between itself and the people," said Antonio Redondo, secretary general of the General Workers Union, Spain's biggest.

Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez responded to left-wing attacks on his support for allied intervention by reiterating that Madrid would provide only logistical and medical backing. But he said Spain must firmly condemn Iraqi aggression.

"We condemn the Iraqi attack on Israel, a country that has remained out of the conflict in agreement with the international community's demands," he told congress.

Thousands of protesters across the United States and Canada took to the streets again Friday to demonstrate against the war in the Gulf and at least 150 arrests were made.

Some of the largest demonstrations were on the west coast, where at least 100 students were arrested in Los Angeles and 50 people, including clergymen, were detained by police in San Francisco.

In Washington, thousands gathered in Lafayette Park, across from the White House, but no arrests were reported.

Although not as many people demonstrated Friday as earlier in the week, organisers said protests possibly by hundreds of

thousands of people would be held at the weekend.

The California Highway Patrol said Friday it was sending five squads of officers, a total of 55 men, from the southeastern part of the state to San Francisco to help deal with protests there, particularly one planned for Saturday that organisers say could draw more than 25,000 people.

Campus police at the University of California at Los Angeles Friday arrested more than 100 of 300 students who had occupied a university building to stage a peace sit-in.

"The arresting is taking place very peacefully. The students are simply lining up to be booked," campus police spokesman Pete Dolan said.

In San Francisco 50 protesters were charged with illegally entering and demonstrating on government property after they scaled the walls of the headquarters of the U.S. Sixth Army.

At a "funeral procession" through the city earlier, marchers carried a mock coffin draped with the American flag.

One of the demonstrators in Washington was Conrad Smith, an assistant attorney general for environmental enforcement in Vermont, who held a sign saying, "This Vermonters says: Militarily strong. Morally weak."

Smith said he left work to go to Washington because "it just didn't seem right to go to work and pretend everything was all right."

The streets of Chicago were quiet following a 3,000-strong demonstration Thursday night. In Philadelphia, demonstrators staged a day-long peace vigil while hundreds of small protests were staged throughout Canada.

### Protest in S. Africa

In South Africa, at least 150 men, women and children were arrested Friday while attempting to protest outside the U.S.

embassy against America's military presence in the Gulf.

Another 100 people protested outside the U.S. consulate in Durban, across the country on South Africa's Indian Ocean coast.

An initial contingent of about 30 people, mostly Muslims, had gathered on the sidewalk outside the embassy in Cape Town, where police awaited them.

A police officer announced over a bullhorn the demonstrators had one minute to disperse, and the crowd walked to an island median in the road outside the embassy.

The contingent of about 50 police then surrounded the group and arrested 27 people.

A larger crowd of people, mostly Muslims leaving nearby mosques after Friday prayers, then gathered on the island median, and police arrested more than 100 of them.

Children who told reporters they were 8 years old were among those arrested. Many protesters wore kaffiyehs.

The protesters held placards saying, "Bush: Wanted dead or alive for crimes against humanity," and chanted "Bush out, Americans go home." They sang Arabic songs praising God as they were arrested.

A police spokesman said young children and elderly people arrested would be released.

Organisers said they sought permission from the Cape Town City Council and a magistrate to hold protest, but received no response.

Police ordered the protesters away before a picket could be formed, the organisers said.

In Durban, a group calling itself the Natal Committee Against Imperialist Wars handed a memorandum on their position to a U.S. consulate official, the government-run South African Broadcasting Corp. reported.

Police said traffic was halted around the consulate because of the protest.

## Top Gorbachev advisers to quit over Baltics

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev's two top economic aides, champions of change to a market system, have in effect resigned over his approval of Soviet army action in the Baltics, sources close to both have said.

The sources said the two — Stanislav Shatalin and Nikolai Petrakov — regarded their signature of a fiercely-worded open letter condemning military violence earlier this week as amounting to an announcement they were stepping down.

In the letter, published in the weekly Moscow News Wednesday, a galaxy of intellectuals expressed bitter disillusionment with the Soviet president for failing to condemn the army. They said little was left of his reform programme.

After bloody Sunday in Vilnius, the letter said referring to the army's killing of 13 civilians in the Lithuanian capital, "is there much left of what we have so often heard from the president in the past few years....?"

It added: "There is almost nothing left." It said the army action was "a crime against its own people who are being pushed towards civil war."

Gorbachev later attacked Moscow News and proposed to bring back press censorship.

In a separate interview in the radical weekly, the 58-year-old Shatalin said he was "no longer a player in the Gorbachev team."

But in the interview conducted in hospital, the ailing economist who suffers heart problems added: "I will refuse to give him (Gorbachev) advice to the degree of my knowledge and capacities."

Foreign visitors who saw Petrakov this week said he regarded his decision to sign the letter as a de facto resignation.

Sources close to him said he had already submitted one resignation to Gorbachev after the fast-track economic reform programme, which he and Shatalin helped to plan, was pushed aside by the Kremlin chief last autumn.

The sources said Gorbachev rejected his resignation. Petrakov was not immediately available for comment but diplomats who know him said it was unlikely he could stay close to Gorbachev after the letter.

The "500-day" plan for quick transfer to a market economy was originally approved by Gorbachev but then abandoned for a vague government blueprint which radical reformers say is doomed to fail.

## Lithuania assured of U.S. support

VILNIUS, USSR (AP) — Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said Friday he had received U.S. assurance of support for his Baltic republic, which is struggling against a crackdown by Soviet troops.

In Washington, U.S. president George Bush told a news conference he had spoken with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and called for a peaceful solution in the Soviet Baltics republics, which are trying to break away from the Kremlin.

U.S. officials released a barrage of criticism at the Soviet media, saying it had heightened tension in Lithuania with biased reporting.

In the Baltic Republic of Estonia, residents of the capital, Tallin, blocked roads to the hilltop parliament building with stone barricades. Russian-speaking workers pressing the Estonian government to resign went on strike at 16 large factories, a news report said.

Soviet forces have seized several key buildings in Lithuania, which declared independence in March. Fourteen people were killed in a Soviet military assault on the Lithuanian Broadcast Centre early Sunday.

The three Baltic republics — Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia — were independent between the two world wars. Estonia and Latvia are also seeking independence, but they have been more restrained in their efforts than Lithuania.

Landsbergis said at a news conference Friday he had met with George A. Krol, the U.S. consul in Leningrad. He said Krol told him the United States guaranteed that at this time in our crisis, the United States is on our side.

Krol told him the United States supports a peaceful settlement in Lithuania, Landsbergis said. No confirmation from Krol was available.

In his remarks to reporters, Bush said he had discussed the Gulf war and the situation in the Baltics with Gorbachev by telephone.

"I took the opportunity...from that call to express again my concern, my deep concern over the Baltics, and the need to ensure that there is a peaceful resolution to the situation there," Bush said.

Bush administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity,

said the Kremlin had raised tensions in the Baltics with false and biased press and television accounts. Their coverage "has done a great disservice to the Soviet people and has served to exacerbate an already difficult situation," one official said.

The officials cited as an example Soviet reports that Lithuanians guarding the television tower in Vilnius fired first on the Soviet troops. Witnesses, including an Associated Press reporter, contradicted those reports.

In Brussels, Belgium, Lithuania's foreign minister said Friday that Western nations are just "talking about democracy" and doing nothing while the Soviet government victimises Lithuania. Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas made the charge while speaking to members of the European Parliament.

In his comments, Landsbergis also said he also met once more with a personal representative of Gorbachev, Georgy Tarashevich.

"I can tell you truly that Mr. Tarashevich is not impressed, is not happy, with what he has seen here of what the military is doing," Landsbergis said.

## Latvians waiting for possible attack

RIGA, USSR (AP) — A taxi driver guarding the Latvian government building nodded by the fire while nearby hundreds of people watched the latest news of the Gulf war on TV sets perched on a car roof.

The government of the republic wants to break away from the Soviet Union, like its sister Baltic states — Lithuania and Estonia.

"The Gulf war is very important and we want Americans to win, but we feel the world will forget us," said Lauris Liepa, a law student, whose guard duty was beginning in the early hours of Friday.

"We do expect the (Soviet) tanks to come. We are afraid, but maybe things have calmed down a bit in recent days," Liepa said moving closer to one of the numerous huge log fires erected on the cobblestone streets in front of the barricaded buildings.

Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis said the government would continue to encourage people to fill the streets at night.

"If the military comes in, and wants to overthrow the government, parliament, we have no force to prevent it," Godmanis told foreign journalists.

Outside, a Latvian rock band started playing on a stage next to the planetarium, a former Orthodox Church now serving as

an emergency hospital.

The crowded night streets were permeated by the smell of billowing wood smoke and the exhaust of trucks and other heavy vehicles parked for protection in front of public buildings.

Guards with fur hats and tear-gas masks slung over their shoulders drank steaming soup out of plastic mugs while their off-duty comrades slept in buses.

"I've been here two days and three nights and soon I'll go back home to the country," said Janis Umanis, who had traveled 200 kilometres to join the Voluntary Guard Force.

"But after a break of a couple of days, I'll be back to join my friends (here)," Umanis said. At the steps of the soaring Freedom Monument nearby, passers-by stopped by the wreaths of tulips and roses commemorating Wednesday's killing of the transport minister's driver.

The government says he was shot in the head by elite black beret troops of the Soviet Interior Ministry.

"This is part of a chain of crimes. Whether this chain ends or continues depends on the party," said Peters Marinskis, a veteran who served in the Soviet army for 27 years.

Marinskis, whose 16-year-old daughter Marina clutched him

tightly by the arm, said he thought the army would come.

"I'm very afraid of what will happen," Marina said. Everywhere the streets posters and hand-drawn cartoons accused Moscow leaders and the Communist Party of the violence in recent days in Lithuania and Latvia.

Later in the morning, when the last of a dozen pop groups stopped playing, more large granite rocks were hauled into the old part of the city to guard the parliament and other key buildings.

Tired people roasted potatoes over the embers of dying fires as the sun rose the horizon. In Riga's 13th century cathedral, nurses at impromptu medical points rested their heads on each other's shoulders after the long night vigil.

People slept on mattresses in pews among medical equipment and stretchers. Others filed past to take part in a candlelight service.

Regina Sheine, a nurse working a 24-hour shift with a surgeon, said they had treated only minor ailments.

They complained of a shortage of TV equipment, albumen and blood, but said they could manage with the short supplies.

"We can cope with the shortages of other things, but the worst thing of all is the shortage of freedom," Sheine said.

## GULF WAR NEWS IN BRIEF

### Detroit declares emergency

DETROIT (R) — The city of Detroit, citing fear of Gulf-related attacks, has declared a state of emergency and asked for Michigan state national guard troops to help protect sensitive facilities, the mayor said Friday. Mayor Coleman Young said U.S. government and international anti-terrorism agencies had identified the Detroit area as "high on their list" for possible "terrorist" activity. Mr. Young's request is the latest in a series of steps in the Detroit area, which has one of the largest populations of Arabs outside the Middle East. Since the U.S.-led forces launched their aerial bombardment of Baghdad, Detroit area corporations, power plants and airports have intensified security efforts.

### U.S. bank in Dubai gets bomb threat

DUBAI (R) — The Dubai headquarters of Citibank was evacuated Saturday after a telephone bomb threat, a policeman at the scene said. An eyewitness saw no evidence of any explosion and said sniffer dogs were combing the site, a modern angular glass and concrete building near the central business district of this Gulf port. Citibank is a unit of New York-based Citicorp. Surrounding streets were cordoned off, then reopened, and there was nothing to suggest a bomb had been found. Police in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been on alert for terrorist attacks since a U.S.-led multinational force launched massive air raids on Iraq last Thursday to push it out of Kuwait. Some Arab and Asian expatriate residents of the UAE are sympathetic to Iraq. The UAE government has troops with allied ground forces poised to attack Iraqi positions in Kuwait.

### Iraqi passenger planes to fly out

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq is attempting to fly 10 passenger aircraft out of the country to Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania to spare them from bombing raids by the United States and its allies, diplomats said. The Iraqi plans were disclosed by Tunisia, which told the Security Council's Sanctions Committee that Baghdad had asked it for overnight and landing rights. Three planes were to go to Algeria, three to Casablanca in Morocco, two to Tunisia and two to the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, the diplomats said. The two to Nouakchott have landed amid rumours they were carrying Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's wife and other members of his family. Both Mauritania and U.S. officials in Nouakchott have denied this was the case. Algeria and Morocco told the Sanctions Committee no Iraqi plane had landed and they had not been asked for landing rights.

### Ecuadorians hurl bomb at British Bank

QUITO, Ecuador (R) — Students hurled an incendiary bomb at a branch of a British Bank in Ecuador's capital while two French schools were shut down Friday after they received telephone threats. A spokesman for Lloyds Bank said students protesting against the U.S.-led offensive against Iraq threw the makeshift bomb at the bank's office in Quito, causing limited damage. The French embassy's press attaché said two French schools in the capital had been closed indefinitely after anonymous callers made unspecified threats.

### Schools reopen in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Schools in the United Arab Emirates reopened Saturday after shutting down Thursday at the start of the Gulf war. Local newspapers quoted Education Minister Hamad Abdul Rahman Al Madfa as saying the decision would allow students to complete mid-year examinations. Schools are always closed Friday. The Gulf state is part of the U.S.-led multinational alliance fighting to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. But the UAE, 800 kilometres from Kuwait, is generally considered outside the war zone.

### 'Most Indians want to stay neutral'

NEW DELHI (R) — Most Indians want the country to remain neutral in the Gulf war, according to a poll published Saturday in the widely circulated Times of India newspaper. In India's five largest cities, 60 per cent of those interviewed disapproved of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2, the Indian Market Research Bureau found. Of those polled, 71 per cent said India should remain neutral in the war. The poll showed 38 per cent believed the conflict would develop into an Iraqi-Israeli conflict, while 34 per cent thought it would not. Only 10 per cent of those polled were Muslim. India's 850 million people include 100 million Muslims.

### Dalai Lama appeals for restraint

NEW DELHI (R) — The Dalai Lama, exiled spiritual leader of Tibet, urged the U.S.-led multinational forces Saturday to be magnanimous to Iraqis in the Gulf war. "The continued use of the awesome military strength by the allies will inflict immeasurable destruction and suffering to the people of Iraq who are defenceless, now that key military installations and airfields have been rendered ineffective," he said in a statement from his home in exile in north India. "I appeal to you and all civilised people for restraint and magnanimity," said the Dalai Lama, winner of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize, who fled to India in 1959 after an abortive Tibetan uprising against Peking.

### Bahrain-Saudi Arabia causeway closed

BAHRAIN (R) — The causeway linking the Gulf island state of Bahrain to Saudi Arabia has been closed to civilian traffic, except for Saudi citizens returning home, border guards said Saturday. Military and government vehicles would be the only other traffic permitted across the 25-kilometre long causeway, the guards said. The bridge is Bahrain's only road link to the mainland, ending near the important Saudi air base of Dhahran. Bahrain hosts British and U.S. military bases. Bahrain, 400 kilometres south of Kuwait, may be just within the range of Iraqi Scud missiles but so far there have been no attacks.

### Afghanistan denounces use of force

KABUL (R) — The Afghan government, in its first comment on the Gulf crisis since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait five months ago, said Saturday the conflict threatened world peace. A statement issued by President Najibullah said: "The Gulf war has taken very serious dimensions, threatening the peace and stability of the region, possibly the entire world." It added that Afghanistan was "opposed to the use of force in any form and called on all parties to cease hostilities as soon as possible." "Afghanistan's hope is that the present war will give way to wisdom and understanding. There is no room left for the use of force to solve problems," the statement added. Kabul and Baghdad have enjoyed close relations for many years, while Kuwait gave substantial economic assistance to Mujahideen rebels during Afghanistan's protracted civil war. Referring to that fighting, which began in 1979, the statement said: "Having experienced a 12-year devastating war, the Afghan people well understand that war cannot solve problems."

### Red Cross sends medicine to Gulf

GENEVA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Saturday it had sent medical supplies to the Gulf and was trying to take some of these to Iraq's war-scarred capital. A chartered aircraft ferried the 3.3 tonnes of medical supplies to Bahrain Friday, the Red Cross said, adding that six ICRC delegates and a representative from the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were also on the flight. The all-Swiss

agency said its Geneva headquarters had established regular contact with its seven delegates in Baghdad. "Although the team in the Iraqi capital has not yet been able to evaluate the needs of the civilian population, the ICRC is making every effort to take in medical assistance," it said.

### Islamic Jihad will threaten to kill hostage

BEIRUT (AP) — The newspaper Ad Diyar said Saturday that pro-Iranian kidnappers would issue a statement in the next 24 hours threatening to kill a Western hostage if American and allied attacks against Iraq persisted. The conservative daily, which does not have a record of accurate reporting on the issue of the 13 Westerners missing in Lebanon, said the threat would be made by Islamic Jihad — Islamic Holy War — which holds Americans Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland. "Islamic Jihad would threaten in the next 24 hours to execute a foreign hostage if the American and allied forces maintained their attacks on Iraq," the paper said. The hostage to be killed "would most probably be American," the report said. It did not give further details. The report contradicted remarks made earlier in the week by Hussein Musawi, the Shi'ite Muslim leader of some of the hostage-holding factions, who said he did not think that developments in the Gulf would have any effect on the Western captives. "I don't think the hostages would be harmed because of developments in the Gulf," Musawi said. However, Ad Diyar's prediction followed a report by the official Iraqi News Agency that American warplanes hit the shrine of Shi'ite Imam Musa Kazem in Baghdad during raids on the Iraqi capital Friday. Kazem is one of the most venerated saints of the Shi'ite sect.

### Bush bodyguards carry gas masks

WASHINGTON (R) — A clumsy secret service agent provided proof that President George Bush's bodyguards are carrying gas masks like the ones being given combatants in the Gulf to guard against nerve gas attack. But a White House official said the president's security force was only worried about the possibility of tear gas during an anti-war demonstration rather than a chemical attack on Washington. The gas masks' existence came to light when a secret service agent dropped one from a green canvas bag. The incident occurred next to the helicopter launching pad alongside the Pentagon in full view of reporters during Bush's visit to Defence Department headquarters Friday. The agent quickly scooped up the fallen mask and put it back in the bag. It quickly turned out that there were four masks in four green bags. The agent then took all four bags onto one of the helicopters waiting to take Bush and his entourage to the Camp David presidential retreat for the weekend.

### U.S. bomb squad searches U.K. plane

LON ANGELES (R) — Bomb squads searched a British Virgin Atlantic Airways Boeing 747 when it landed at Los Angeles from London Friday night after the airline reported receiving a bomb threat, a police spokesman said. Police cars, fire engines and ambulances surrounded the plane while the search was made, but no bomb was found, the spokesman said. Airport officials said they had seldom seen such widespread precautions taken for a bomb threat, apparently because of tightened security prompted by the Gulf war. The 300 passengers were put on buses and kept on the airport tarmac for four hours while their luggage was searched. They were also questioned by police before being allowed to leave the airport.

### Kuwait oil garage blows up, 2 killed

YEOVIL, England (AP) — An explosion Friday killed two men working at garage affiliated with Kuwait's national oil company, and police said it appeared to be an accident. Sgt. Roger Thomas, press spokesman for Avon and Somerset Police, said: "We still have an open mind but every indication is that it was an industrial accident." Avon and Somerset Police sealed off the area for miles around the Q8 station, which sells gasoline supplied by Kuwait Petroleum International. Three investigation officers from the first brigade were at the scene in southwestern England. Somerset fire brigade said they believed the explosion occurred in a workshop and the dead men were understood to be employees who were working inside at the time. Two other men were injured, police said. Q8 is the trading brand of Kuwaiti Petroleum International, which is Kuwait-owned.

### Poll: Most French support allies

PARIS (R) — Almost 70 per cent of French people approve the military action by the U.S.-led alliance fighting Iraq, according to an opinion poll. The survey showed 69 per cent of 1,000 people questioned backed France's participation in the military coalition, against 26 per cent who disapproved. But 54 per cent said the use of force to compel Iraq to end its occupation of Kuwait would complicate a settlement of wider Middle East problems. The BVA poll for the French television network TF-1 and the Paris daily Liberation was published just over 36 hours after allied forces began to bombard targets in Iraq and Kuwait. Sixty-two per cent said Israel should not retaliate for the Iraqi missile attack on its territory early Friday, compared with 29 per cent favouring a reprisal. Fifty-four per cent said the United States' real motive in the Gulf was to control oil resources while 36 per cent felt freeing Kuwait was the chief objective. Only 33 per cent said the main U.S. goal was to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

### Japan to give \$5b more to Gulf war

TOKYO (R) — Japan will offer an additional \$5 billion to U.S.-led forces fighting Iraq, a leading Japanese newspaper reported Saturday. Officials made the decision before Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto left for New York Saturday to attend a meeting of the group of seven (G-7) industrial nations, the Yomiuri Shimbun quoted government sources as saying. Japan pledged \$2 billion to the multinational force last year and \$2 billion to states bordering Iraq that have been hit by the economic sanctions. The newspaper said Hashimoto was expected to announce the new aid figure at the two-day meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors, scheduled to begin Sunday. The G-7 comprises the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada. On Friday government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said Tokyo had not yet decided how much to offer Gulf forces. "We're still discussing it in the government but since we're faced with a war situation, it's only common sense that it will be more than before," he told a news conference. Japan is the only G-7 country without a military presence in the Gulf.

### Indonesia to safeguard foreigners

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, said Saturday it would protect foreigners from possible reprisals arising from the Gulf war. There has so far been little obvious reaction to the outbreak of war, but two foreign schools in the capital have closed and a bomb was found Friday in the grounds of the U.S. ambassador's residence. "Our security is Indonesia," an army statement said. About two million tourists workers living in the country, many of whom are accompanied by line as possible while following United Nations sanctions against Iraq, but they are clearly concerned about a violent reaction to Indonesians Thursday to stay calm and not put national stability at risk. He did not refer to any specific group, but the government has long regarded Muslim fundamentalists with suspicion.